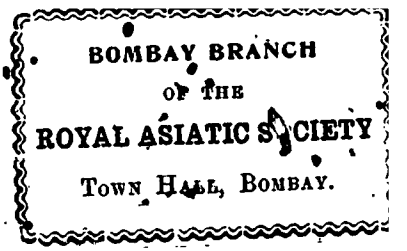

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MEMOIRS

OF

THE PRIVATE LIFE AND OPINIONS

OF

LOUISA, QUEEN OF PRUSSIA,

CONSORT OF FREDERICK WILLIAM III.

BY

MRS. CHARLES RICHARDSON.

"Ist nicht des edeln Beispiel schon
In engem Kreis' ein Segen für die Brüder?
Jedoch von einem Königsthron
Verbreitet es sich um ganzen Volke wieder."

LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
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1847.

LONDON:
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TO

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

QUEEN VICTORIA,

THIS

MEMOIR OF LOUISA, QUEEN OF PRUSSIA,

A PRINCESS,

DISTINGUISHED FOR PRE-EMINENCE IN FEMALE EXCELLENCE,

AND THUS

ASSOCIATED IN THE ADMIRATION OF MANKIND

WITH THE BRIGHT EXAMPLE OF

REGAL DIGNITY AND DOMESTIC VIRTUE WHICH NOW ADORNS

THE BRITISH THRONE,

IS

(BY HER MAJESTY'S KIND PERMISSION)

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY HER MAJESTY'S MOST HUMBLE AND DEVOTED SERVANT

AND SUBJECT,

CONSTANCE RICHARDSON.

JULY, 1847.
19, BRUTON STREET.

PREFACE.

A PERIOD of thirty-seven years has elapsed since one of the noblest and best of women that ever adorned a throne was summoned from her earthly kingdom to receive her celestial crown in the realms of immortality. In that period many storms have passed over Europe; many revolutions have agitated its various kingdoms; revolving years, in their changing course, have obliterated the traces of many joys and sorrows; but amidst all these mutations, the veneration in which the memory of the admirable Queen Louisa is held throughout the whole of Prussia has remained unaltered; and none who have travelled through that country, and especially through the provinces of Eastern Prussia, can fail to take a lively interest in the personal history of a Princess so eminently distinguished by her amiable qualities, and the intense affection she inspired amongst every class of her subjects.

Her contemporaries are passing away, but in the minds of their posterity every noble aspiration is identified with her memory; for so confident were her people in the effects of her exalted virtues, that long after her death the fruition of her hopes for the good, the true, and the beautiful, was referred to her hallowed influence. Such a glorious being must take a prominent place in the history of her country; but the admirable qualities which characterized her domestic existence are comparatively unknown, and to supply this information is the aim of the following pages.

Many of the materials for this Memoir were collected from original sources, during a late tour in Germany, in a season of deep affliction for the loss of an invaluable mother.

Under such circumstances a character like that of Queen Louisa was peculiarly adapted to inspire deep interest; that she should, in her enlarged and elevated sphere, have been a blessing to all around her, could be well understood by one already familiar with the effects of a similar spirit operating in the circle of domestic life, for there is a wondrous affinity in goodness, however varied the positions in which it may be displayed. The task of pourtraying the characteristics of the Queen's private life, her opinions and their effects, and afterwards comparing them with the various authorities extant on the subject was therefore

a labour of love. It was undertaken as a means of entailing some mental exertion, and thus preventing the indulgence of inordinate grief.

The publication of this Memoir was suggested by a hope of adding to the funds of the German Hospital at Dalston; as it appeared to me that the best acknowledgment I could make for the extreme kindness and sympathy I received in Germany, during a season of suffering and sorrow, would be to aid in relieving those Germans who might be in sickness or distress in this country.

A severe illness has prevented the careful revision of this work which has been derived from various authentic sources, but chiefly from German writers. It, therefore, contains some discrepancies of style; but to obviate this objection it should have been re-written, and ill-health would not permit this. With all its faults, the subject will assuredly be found interesting. The motive for its publication,—a desire to promote the interests of a charitable institution,—will, it is hoped, disarm the critic and secure the indulgence of the reader.

MEMOIRS

OF

LOUISA, QUEEN OF PRUSSIA.

If we consider the important position which Prussia held at the close of the last century, and the splendid prospects which she might have reasonably entertained of the future, and then consider the utter annihilation of those prospects which the early part of the present century presented, we shall receive a memorable lesson of the instability of earthly grandeur. The appearance of Prussia's Queen during that dark period, may be compared to a lovely vision, which, amidst a mighty tempest of devastation, assumes the form of a guardian angel, whose mission was to propitiate and console, but who, too gentle to encounter the fierce elements of the conflicting storms of this world, returned to her native home in the skies as soon as her mission had been accomplished, and

the triumph of the good and true had been assured over the powers of anarchy and evil.

Her destiny was clouded by the gloomy aspect of political events throughout Europe; but the early period of her youth was distinguished by the happiest auguries.

She was born on the 10th of March, 1776, at Hanover, where her father, Duke Charles Louis Frederick of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, brother of Queen Charlotte, consort of George III. of England, was Commandant, being at that period in the Hanoverian service.

Her mother, Frederica Carolina Louisa, daughter of a Prince of Hesse-Darmstadt, bestowed on her the rudiments of an excellent education, in conjunction with the accomplished Mademoiselle von Wollzogen; and in the interchange of the warmest fraternal and sisterly affection, the first years of her happy childhood glided rapidly away, untrammelled by those ceremonious observances which too often repress the natural advantages, and circumscribe the understanding of so many daughters of royalty, but to which they are generally obliged to submit, even from their infancy.

The most judicious system of education was adopted by her careful and affectionate mother, who gave to her naturally excellent disposition and richly gifted mind, the noblest and highest aim which aspires far above the mere sublunary and perishable; and thus the foundation was laid of those exalted female

virtues, by which she would have become eminently distinguished amongst her sex, even had she not been destined to adorn a throne.

But to lay the foundation of her education was all that this admirable Princess was permitted to accomplish, for on the 22nd of May 1782, she was summoned to another world—an irreparable loss to her husband and six children, of whom the eldest was scarcely twelve years of age, and the youngest little more than one year.

With the loss of his consort, the Duke had also to deplore that of his newly-born infant daughter, which survived its birth (on the 19th of May) only a few days.

Of the ten children, which were the fruit of this union, the late lamented Queen Louisa was the sixth; and at the death of her mother she was in her seventh year.

This deep sorrow, the greatest of which a child can be sensible, was her first trial, and it taught her the instability of human happiness. It was felt the more bitterly by her, in proportion to the remarkably precocious development of her mind, which had far surpassed her years, and in proportion to the lively interest which she displayed in everything that interested her affections.

During her whole life she expressed the most fervent gratitude, veneration, and affection for her beloved mother; and many pious tears were consecrated to her memory, even in those hard trials of her

later existence, which elicited such bitter expressions of grief for the ruin which had nearly annihilated her royal house, and overwhelmed her country.

To soften the bitterness of his domestic associations, the Duke quitted the town of Hanover, and took up his residence in the adjacent Palace of Herrenhausen, where the Princess Louisa resided with him, under the care and direction of her governess, Mademoiselle von Wollzogen, who, to a polite education, united all those qualifications requisite for the instruction of a Princess so eminently distinguished for her talents and disposition.

With this excellent governess she made a visit, soon after the death of her mother to her grandmother on the maternal side, the Landgravine of Hesse-Darmstadt, Maria Louisa Albertine, a Princess eminently distinguished for the qualities of her head and heart; and after remaining with her a short time, the little Princess returned to her father in Hanover.

On the 28th of September, 1784, the Duke contracted a second marriage with the Princess Charlotte Wilhelmina Christina Maria, the sister of his late wife.

The little Louisa accompanied him to Darmstadt for the celebration of the marriage, where they remained the winter, and she then returned with her father and step-mother again to Hanover.

But only for a short time did she enjoy the fostering care of this second parent and beloved relative, for death required a new victim from this

illustrious family, and Louisa lost her step-mother on the 12th of December, 1785, who had previously given birth to a Prince on the 30th of November.

This loss was deeply deplored by the Princess. She felt her orphan position now the more acutely, as her eldest sister, the Princess Charlotte had been united to the reigning Duke of Hildburghausen in the previous September.

This new misfortune caused the twice-widowed husband to resign the service of Hanover, and return with all his family to Darmstadt, where every advantage of education was given to his children, and the further development of the mind and heart of the Princess Louisa was undertaken by her grandmother, the widowed Landgravine, who, with the most watchful and maternal love superintended her education, and cultivated those talents with which she had been so richly endowed by nature, and which, thus properly directed, rendered her at a later period an ornament to her sex.

The care and tenderness of this excellent lady, combined with the great judgment she displayed in the management of a quick and lively disposition, like that of the Princess, produced the happiest results.

As the governess from the French Cantons of Switzerland, (Mademoiselle Agier), treated the lively young Princess with too great severity, the Landgravine caused another to be sent for from the same place, whose method of education accorded with her own views; for, with the intuitive judgment which

soon discovers the natural disposition of a child, and perceives that severity with a noble and affectionate temperament can rarely obtain desirable results, she had resolved on adopting a system of judicious indulgence, which is far more likely to attain success, whilst, at the same time, it tends to soften the heart, and foster the affections.

This lady was named Gelieur;* and she not only improved the natural disposition of the Princess for the true, the good, and the beautiful, but she also taught her to find the highest enjoyment in the exercise of benevolence, and in extending her compassion to the sick, the poor, and the miserable.

She conducted her charge to the wretched hovels of poverty and distress, and even to the sick bed of the suffering; and never did the Princess quit the dwellings of privation without alleviating the sufferings of want by her compassionate liberality, and mitigating the sighs of despair by her compassionate tears. After some years had thus tranquilly glided by, in which her noble nature gradually developed the excellent effects of this system of instruction, she accompanied her grandmother to Strasburg on a visit to her Aunt, Princess Wilhelmina Augusta, of Hesse-Darmstadt, who had been first married to the late King Maximilian Joseph of Bavaria; but, on becoming a widow, was now united to the Duke of Zweibrücken. After a short stay, they made a tour as interesting as instructive to the Princess, along

* It is also spelt by some Gellieu.

the romantic banks of the Rhine, and through the rich and industrious provinces of the Netherlands.

This journey contributed to expand the mind of the young Princess, by presenting new objects of interest to her ardent imagination. It afforded her ample means of acquiring useful information on subjects of general utility, and she learnt to estimate the advantages of industry and perseverance amongst the operative classes, as well as to appreciate the beauties of nature and art, which the romantic scenery of the Rhine, and the various objects of interest presented to her notice during this tour. She learnt also to see the world in different aspects, by observing it from different points of view, and by her love of information, and diligent care to improve these opportunities, she acquired the happy art of laying up stores for future gratification whilst imbibing the first principles of a sound education.

In May, 1789, she had the pleasure of witnessing the marriage of her second sister, the Princess Theresa, with Alexander Prince of Tour and Taxis. This marriage occasioned two visits to Frankfort, where she was present at the coronation of the Emperor Leopold II., on the 11th of September, 1790, and also at the coronation of the Emperor Francis II., on the 14th of June, 1792. These frequent journeys, and on such remarkable occasions, contributed to enlarge the mind of a Princess so eagerly desirous of useful information. Her gentle nature acquired considerable strength, and her judg-

ment great accuracy of discrimination in the contemplation and comparison of the many remarkable objects that had fallen under her notice in these different journeys. She also acquired considerable knowledge of character, and attained then, (what was so remarkable in her at a later period of her life), the power of conciliating the affections, and rendering happy all who were so fortunate as to approach her.

On account of the unsettled state of the country, the Princess Louisa resided some time with her eldest sister, Charlotte, the wife of the reigning Duke of Saxe-Hildburghausen, at Hildburghausen, and she continued there until the month of March, 1793. The Princess little anticipated that the storm which was bursting over France at that time, would, at a future period, shake that throne to its foundation, of which she was destined to be the ornament, the pride, and the happiness.

The breaking out of the French revolution, which spread like a devastating conflagration, and threatened to shake all Europe to its very centre, menaced the peaceful relations of the several foreign powers; and, contrary to the established law of nations, threatened even the peace and welfare of private families. From its geographical position, the greatest danger was to be apprehended for Germany, from the lawless and revolutionary spirit which assailed the vital principles of all Government.

It was then that the German States united to make a firm resistance, and the King of Prussia,

Frederick William II., placed himself at the head of a division of his army, and led his troops into action. His two sons, the Crown Prince and Prince Louis, accompanied him, in order to share the dangers of the campaign, and to participate in the glory of their royal father.

Frankfort-on-the-Maine had been occupied by the French for some weeks; but they were driven out by the Prussians on the 2nd of December, 1792, and that city was chosen by Frederick William for his head-quarters.

Whilst the King remained there he attracted, by his humanity and condescension, people of all classes from the adjacent towns; and there an accidental circumstance brought the Crown Prince and his future consort into personal contact. It had been arranged, that the Princess Louisa should return home, accompanied by her youngest sister, the Princess Frederica, to Darmstadt, by way of Frankfort, where they were to be introduced to the King, and their departure had been fixed to take place in the evening, after the performances at the theatre had terminated; but the King caused the two young Princesses to be invited to supper, which invitation was accepted on their part. The attention of the Crown Prince was attracted to the Princess Louisa at the first glance, for there exists in the secret and profound depths of the human heart, in the male as well as the female bosom, a conscious feeling of intellectual sympathy, which draws together instinctively, at the first glance, with magnetic force,

two beings, who perhaps have never before spoken to, or even seen each other.

This secret sympathy in pure hearts, is frequently manifested in a species of respectful timidity; for reason cannot explain the grounds on which this powerful sensation is so involuntarily formed.

No language possesses a word that sufficiently expresses this feeling in all its depth and purity. None know the hidden spring from whence this gentle, but powerfully magnetic attraction proceeds, yet all who have experienced it know, that although it cannot be clearly defined, it is positively felt; and that this reciprocal inclination is as distinctly in harmonious unison, as the echo and re-echo of a melodious sound. What the heart gives it receives back again; and this is fully understood without a syllable of explanation.

We see an object for the first time, and yet we feel as if we had long known it, as if we could open to it our most secret thoughts, and we are only restrained by a species of modest shame, from the full declaration of this sweet sensation which fills the whole heart, and causes it to thrill with a new and powerful emotion.

Is this secret magnetic force an emanation of that wondrous power, which so gently pervades the whole creation? Respiration, feeling, the throbbing of the human heart? Is it in analogy with the secret process of nature in the physical world, so singularly exemplified in the effects of attractive and repulsive poles?

We know not, but we see and feel the power of attraction and repulsion. The holy veil which surrounds and conceals the internal operations of the physical and spiritual world we cannot lift. In tranquil awe we may stand on the boundaries of human knowledge, but the heart soars beyond these limits, to the invisible world, where the primitive source of all pure love exists, and where it will be perfected.

Great and wonderful powers of harmony! Your profound and flowing streams bear us onwards through the sandy deserts of life.

In the heterogeneous mass which surrounds us, we are repeatedly thrown back on our blighted thoughts, and our acquaintances of years, our nearest connexions, nay, even husband and wife, may remain as strangers, who can never understand each other, whilst there are some who captivate at a single glance, and the first hour of their acquaintance suffices to establish that bond of friendship and reciprocal confidence which is for life indissoluble.

It was thus with the royal pair on beholding each other; at the first glance, their hearts responded. They experienced, as they both afterwards confessed, the celestial harmony of similarly constituted souls, before either had pronounced a syllable, and on this intellectual harmony was founded the happiness of their domestic union. Very soon the attachment was declared, and that sweet alliance of hearts was cemented, which had neither been regulated by

family expediency, reasons of state, or political intrigue; a singular occurrence amongst royal personages, who, too often, in the most important affair of their lives, are not permitted to follow the dictates of their own hearts, but are obliged to sacrifice their inclinations to the interest of the State, or the aggrandizement of the throne. It is a sad reflection, that sovereigns, who are burdened with the cares and perplexities of government should be often thus deprived of the most tender of all friendships, a well-assorted marriage. It cannot be supplied by the pomp and splendour of worldly distinctions, for no joy can surpass that of domestic happiness; and those who are deprived of this greatest earthly blessing, lose that which constitutes the charm of existence.

But the Crown Prince was not doomed to this great privation. He found in the Princess Louisa a second self; he found in her the same lofty principles, the same ardent and magnanimous feelings, that had hitherto guided him, the same simple tastes, the same disdain for mere external forms of dignity which he had hitherto manifested; in short, he had found a kindred spirit, and his noble heart was united to one that entirely responded with his own. They were as one soul.

On the 24th of April, 1793, the ceremony of the betrothal took place in Darmstadt, and at the same time the Prince Louis was also betrothed to the Princess Frederica. Thus the two Princes of Prussia

were on the same day betrothed to the two young Princesses of Mecklenburg, both so celebrated for personal beauty. The younger was remarkable for the extreme delicacy of her complexion and extraordinary personal attractions, even in the later period of her life when she was known in England as the Duchess of Cumberland.*

* Goethe, whose powers of portraying feminine grace and beauty have never been surpassed, states in one of his works that he was present in the suite of the Grand Duke of Weimar at the siege of Mainz in May 1793, and that on the 29th of that month he saw the two Princesses of Mecklenburg (the Queen and her sister Frederica), he says: "In my sojourn with the Court, I had the opportunity of observing them closely as they passed to and fro in unconstrained freedom amidst the assembled company; and the effect they produced on me was such, that I could only compare them to two celestial beings, whose impression on my mind could never be effaced." This was the effect the Princess produced on all who beheld her. Her tall, slight, but majestic figure, her expressive countenance, in which every feature was in harmonious proportion, her dignified behaviour equally removed from constraint, affectation or too much freedom, her light and graceful step, her animation and cheerfulness, her clear, musical and joyous tones, her intelligent glance always beaming with good-will, seeking and inspiring confidence, yet never losing the impress of her dignity; her penetrating eye, sometimes glancing archly around, sometimes serenely tranquil in its expression, must have been seen to be understood. The elevation of her whole being which combined every quality of beauty, grace and art, that could adorn her illustrious sphere, was so surprisingly manifest that she enchanted every one who beheld her. She was always tastefully attired.

The King, Frederick William II., to show his entire satisfaction at this double alliance, assisted at the ceremony of exchanging rings, and besides many other royal and noble guests, the two elder sisters of the Princesses, the Duchess of Saxe Hildburghausen and the Princess of Tours and Taxis graced the ceremony by their presence.

However great was the impatience of the royal bridegrooms for the completion of the marriage, they were obliged to await the return of the King to Berlin. The troubled state of the country still continued; and the military duties in which they were engaged, gave them constant occupation. The Crown Prince shared all the dangers of his father's troops; he willingly bore every inconvenience and hardship which is inseparable from an active cam-

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according to the position she was required to maintain, sometimes with great simplicity, sometimes with the regal splendour suitable to the sovereign.

Nature had lavished on this illustrious Princess a happy mixture of the nobler and the gentler virtues; she inspired a degree of veneration mingled with affectionate regard. She had the happy art of comprehending at a single glance the feelings of those around her. Her sympathies were immediate; she had in her eyes a gentle expression of compassion for the unhappy, and she attracted them towards her imperceptibly with a never-failing confidence in her sympathy. Such a glance as her's was to be compared to the bright rays of the sun shining on mankind and brightening his prosperity, or to the pure, calm ray of the moon shedding balm and consolation on the unhappy in their deep sorrow.

paign, and showed himself, throughout them all, a noble descendant of his illustrious ancestors and a worthy successor of the immortal Frederick.

Mainz, by capitulation, was evacuated by the French on the 22nd of July, 1793; and after the victory of Pirmassen, on the 14th of September of the same year, the King returned to his own Government on the 8th of November.

Four weeks later, the Crown Prince and Prince Louis followed him; and now they awaited, with longing impatience, the arrival of the royal brides, the future Queen and her younger sister. On the 15th of December, the Princesses commenced their journey from Darmstadt, passing through Würtzburg, Hildburghausen, Weimar, Leipsic and Treuenbrietzen. Their arrival was expected at Potsdam on the 21st.

The Crown Prince and his royal brother set off to meet and welcome them to Potsdam. The Princesses were also met by the inhabitants of that city, who gave them a formal but cordial reception on their entrance. After remaining there two days they proceeded to Berlin.

Scarcely had the first rays of morning dawned on the capital, when every street and house in Berlin was busied with the greatest activity. Many thousands of every class were preparing to assist in the solemn reception; some as being required to form a part of the procession; many as simple spectators, anxious to greet and welcome the beautiful bride of their beloved Prince.

It would be scarcely possible to describe the various

circumstances that distinguished the solemn entrance of the Princesses into Berlin; the festivity that prevailed, and the ingenious devices and magnificent preparations that were displayed to welcome them, and it would weary the reader without conveying the impression the spectators experienced. Suffice it to state that, on the 23rd of December, 1793, the procession entered Berlin soon afte. the hour of noon, and that universal joy and festivity prevailed throughout the capital.

One incident which illustrates the affectionate disposition of the Princess, should not be omitted.

One of the most beautiful and striking positions in the city of Berlin, is decidedly the entrance to the Linden-Walk, where the monument to the memory of Frederick the Great is erected. At the one end is the Brandenburg Gate, and at the other, through a long line of handsome buildings, are seen the Royal Library, the King's Palace and the Arsenal, and in the extreme vista the old Palace and the Cathedral.

This street may be considered as one of the widest, and the Germans think the most beautiful in the world.

In this spot there was an arch erected in honour of the arrival of the Princess, who, with her bridal procession was to stop there in order to receive the deputation of the citizens of Berlin, who were desirous to welcome her with every demonstration of love and respect.

The triumphal arch was decorated with allegorical symbols, and the scene became animated to the

highest degree by the music of the drums and trumpets which accompanied the solemn entry. All the windows were filled, and thousands were spectators from the roofs of the houses anxious to obtain a glimpse of the beautiful young Princess who was to be their future Queen. All eyes were naturally directed towards her, and all were transfixed with intense admiration.

A large circle of pretty children, the daughters of the burghers of Berlin, decked in the symbol of purity, white with green wreaths, to signify hope, surrounded the royal bride. One of these children, a lovely little girl, approached the Princess, and whilst she presented her with a beautiful crown of myrtle blossoms, pronounced a simple poem to welcome the illustrious bride with so much feeling and propriety that the Princess was deeply affected. Following the dictates of her feelings, and yielding to the emotions of her warm and grateful heart, she stooped down, embraced the child with tenderness, pressed her fervently to her heart and kissed her lips, her eyes and her forehead. She could not resist this impulse.

The *Oberhofmeisterin*, or lady in waiting, the Countess von Vosz, who was standing behind her was aghast, and would have held her back; but it was done, and she was unheeded.

"My God!" exclaimed this strict follower of every minute custom which the etiquette of the Court prescribed, "what has your Royal Highness doné? That is against all rules and precedents in the manners of

a Court." But the noble-minded Princess looked around her serenely, and said ingenuously: "What! may I never do so again?" and in this simple question there was so much child-like simplicity, so much innocence and truthful expression that it is indescribable. The scene was worthy of the pencil of an artist; but no painter could convey the expression which played around the mouth and eyes of the lovely young Princess. If the scene were to be portrayed, the portrait of the beloved and sainted Queen, which was painted when she was seventeen years old, and which is now in the White Saloon in the palace, would be the most suitable for such a purpose; a misanthrope might feel pleasure in gazing on it, and become a convert to the innocence and dignity of female nature.

On the 24th of December, Christmas Eve, the ceremony of the marriage of the Crown Prince with the Princess Louisa was solemnized.

In order that it should be a festival to the people, in the real sense of the word, the King had commanded a certain number of tickets to be issued for admission to the interior of the palace.

It was a touching spectacle, for a more noble and suitable couple could not be imagined than the royal pair. It may not be irrelevant to cite the words of Bishop Eylert, on the personal appearance of the royal bridegroom, although the description was written many years later. He says:

"The Prince was much above the common height,

and his limbs were finely proportioned. His bearing was erect and military, at the same time wholly unconstrained, and gracefully harmonizing with his stature. His expression, which partook of the serious and tranquil, was agreeable. His high forehead and unwrinkled brow indicated purity of mind; his full underlip, firmness; and around his mouth hovered a mixture of good nature and natural satire. His eyes were dark blue, full of animation and kindness, generally contemplative, yet indicating at times deep thought and experience of sorrow. His countenance bore the stamp of intellectual repose, never vacant or distrustful, but open, penetrating, and truthful. When he chose to express satisfaction by a smile, benevolence marked his aspect: what might be termed condescension, was in him graciousness, for his eye beamed with good-will towards all mankind. Never did human countenance more justly reflect the inward feeling; it might be denominated a panorama of inwardly received impressions.

"If the conversation turned on the misfortunes or casualties of others, sympathy was directly visible in the peculiar movement of the features of his face; the shrug of his shoulders, and the remembrance-knot, stealthily made in his handkerchief. His gait was firm and measured; and the movement of his hands singularly graceful. When young, his person was slim, and he never became corpulent; but in his thirty-fifth year, when he had reached the prime of manhood, he was considered to be, not only the first

in rank, but the handsomest man in Prussia—a very chieftain. This was most prominently visible when on parade surrounded by his guards, and amid the élite of the nation—the stranger had not to ask, "Which is the King?"

The marriage took place with the pomp and splendour suitable to the dignity of the royal house, but without extravagant ostentation or prodigality. About six in the evening, the several Princes and Princesses assembled in the apartments of the reigning Queen, where the diamond crown of the royal house of Prussia was placed on the head of the bride.

Soon after, the whole Court repaired to the apartments of the widowed Queen of the great Frederick, to invite her formerly to attend the solemn ceremony of the matrimonial benediction. From thence all the royal family (who were present in Berlin) repaired, preceded by the bridal pair, to the brilliantly illuminated White Saloon, where the ministers of state, the generals, the foreign ambassadors, and nobility were already assembled. In the middle of the saloon, as is customary in all marriages of the royal family, a throne with a superb canopy of rich crimson velvet, embroidered with gold, surmounted by two crowns, was erected, and beneath the canopy was placed a table and a stool or cushion, called a matrimonial cushion, covered also with crimson velvet. The royal pair advanced towards the priest, the supreme consistorial Counsellor Sack; and the royal family formed a brilliant circle around. Next to them the whole

Court was arranged in order, and behind them stood many persons, not belonging to the Court, who were invited as spectators. A solemn silence prevailed. The address to the young couple, by the venerable Bishop Sack, is so short, so simple, and, at the same time so impressive, that it may well find a place in the biography of a Princess, on whom such a solemn address was likely to produce so powerful an impression. The good Bishop had baptized and confirmed the Crown Prince, and he was now performing a ceremony which he hoped would render him individually happy, and fulfil the wishes of a loyal people.

Whilst the royal pair knelt before him, he, in a solemn tone, which was distinctly heard by all, implored the protection of the Most High in these words:—

"Almighty ruler and Father of all mankind, thou hast been graciously pleased to confer great happiness and joy throughout the whole kingdom, and especially on the King and the royal family. Honour, and worship, and thanksgiving to thee, for thy bounty is great to us. Accept, with thy favour, the vow which the royal pair offer upon thy holy altar. Amen."

"Most gracious Prince, most gracious Princess! Your royal highnesses know the honour and worship which is due to the Almighty Father and benefactor of all mankind. It is He that has placed you on this high pinnacle of earthly greatness. It is He, most gracious Prince, who inspires us when our hearts throb with loyalty to you, and who has

extended this shield of his almighty protection over you. It is He, who has formed a heart worthy of your own, and has directed you in your choice. To Him must be ascribed the praise of endowing your royal highness with those elevated qualities, and those views of the importance of this close and solemn contract, without which, even the happiness of possessing a throne, is but an empty shadow of enjoyment. To you it has been vouchsafed to estimate exterior distinctions at their real value.

"Well for us, well for the nation, and well for you also, most gracious Princess, that this heart, which now consecrates to you its love and fidelity on the altar of religion, honours God above all things, and sincerely loves virtue and justice. You have been chosen by Providence to constitute the happiness of this heart. It is your sweet vocation to kindle and nourish the gentle flame of the softer emotions which mitigate the severity of the more heroic virtues; and which, as they spring from love, are manifested in acts of benevolence and love.

"From your royal highness, the Prince expects, in the love you are now consecrating to him for life, what neither power nor dignity can bestow upon him the tender friendship of domestic union—the hallowed blessing of domestic happiness. From you a mighty monarch expects to receive a portion of his satisfaction and enjoyment amid the cares of his regal existence, an honoured Queen expects the circle of her maternal affections to be enlarged, and

her joys enhanced by your presence. From you the Court and the whole nation expect a new and bright example. Beautiful, blessed, and holy union that can raise such expectations, and announce so many blessings—millions of joyful souls celebrating it this day with thanksgivings to the Almighty, and with bright hopes. They are celebrating it with joyful anticipations that it may be the precursor of that which will crown all our wishes, a day that, by establishing the order and regulating the succession, will give to a faithful people and their beloved ruler a pledge that may prove the support and ornament of the throne.

"Be then united amidst the joyful tears of this august assembly, and hallowed by the Almighty to the consecrated duties of that union which henceforward links your fate, as your hearts have been already linked together. May each day of your future life be distinguished by some new proof of God's favour, and may our children's children rejoice in the continuance of your happiness."

After this short discourse, the illustrious betrothed exchanged their rings, and were united according to the forms of the Evangelical Reformed Church.

After this ceremony, the following short prayer was offered up:—

"Almighty God and Father, who hast for ages shed thy gracious favour over our rulers with such great mercy, so shower forth over this royal pair thy beneficent protection, that they, at all times, may

show forth thy praise in thanksgivings. Let the radiance of the Prussian royal house be augmented by them, that they may prove a source of new blessings for future generations. Hear us, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen."

As the matrimonial benediction was pronounced, a torch in the pleasure garden gave the signal, and a discharge of seventy-two cannons announced the auspicious event.

The bride was tenderly embraced by each member of the royal family, and all her own illustrious relations, and received, in conjunction with her husband, the congratulations of the whole Court. The Duke of Mecklenburg, her father, the widowed Landgravine of Darmstadt, her grandmother, and her brother, were present, and witnessed with delight the satisfaction and admiration the youthful bride excited in her future subjects.

Soon after, the Court adjourned to the spacious apartment near the Hall of the Knights.

Here also, the curious spectators, who were composed of every class of society, were admitted, and seemed never sufficiently content with gazing on the beautiful bride, who had enchanted, not only the whole Court, but all Berlin. The grace and dignity of her demeanour, and the intelligence of her exquisitely beautiful features, which beamed with benevolence, had already won all hearts.

The King appeared amongst the assemblage, like

a happy father, and smiled on the multitude present, conscious of meriting the love of his people, which he saw he fully possessed.

About nine o'clock in the evening, the bridal pair, with all the royal family, repaired to the banquet, which was spread for them in the Hall of the Knights, under a baldachin of crimson velvet. embroidered with gold.

According to an old custom introduced in the royal house of Prussia, under similar circumstances, two Generals prepared the table. On this occasion, it was the Lieutenants-General von de Marwitz, and Count von Brühl, who placed the dishes on the table, and the Chamberlain and gentlemen of the chamber, with the first lady of the Court, assisted by the ladies of honour, waited upon the Royal Princes and Princesses. This continued until the royal personages on whom they waited, had drunk for the first time; they were then at liberty to retire to their own supper in another apartment.

This custom, introduced by Frederick I. to the Prussian Court, in imitation of the usages of the French Court, under the rule of Louis XIV., was practised on this solemn and happy occasion; but the greater part of the royal family soon terminated the ceremony, and many of them almost immediately, for the whole period of the banquet did not occupy an hour.

Immediately afterwards, the royal family, with the Princes and Princesses, returned again in formal

procession to the White Saloon, where the other personages of the Court, who had already quitted their supper table, in an adjacent apartment, were assembled for the torch-dance.

This is a solemn dance, in which every one bears a torch in his hand. It dates from the middle ages of Christianity, and was, formerly, not only practised in the courts of princes, but also amongst the burghers; but it has now been long discontinued, and is only retained by the Prussian Court.

The assemblage of State Ministers, at that time eighteen in number, advanced, each one bearing a lighted wax taper, made to resemble a torch.

The royal family sat in a semi-circle, under the baldachin, in the above-named White Saloon, whilst the lords and ladies of the Court stood in a semi-circle behind them.

Trumpets and drums announced the commencement of the dance, the music of which dates from the time of Frederick I.

The Lord High Chamberlain made a signal with his black wand, the insignia of his office, that the dance should begin. The ministers of the King followed him in couples, and the newly-married pair with their brilliant *cortège* succeeded, so that the entire procession went slowly and solemnly round: the bride had previously invited the King to join the dance; the bridegroom led both Queens, and the assembled Princes and Princesses followed in succession.

After this ceremony was ended, the bridal pair were conducted by the whole Court back again to the Hall of the Knights, and then by their royal parents to their own especial apartments.

The inhabitants of Berlin wished to celebrate the rejoicings at the marriage by a general illumination, and many preparations were already made for this purpose; but the benevolent Crown Prince declared it would gratify him far more if the good citizens of Berlin, who had intended to illuminate, would dispose of the sum it would have cost them for the benefit of the widows and orphans of those who had fallen in the late war; and thus the illumination was given up, and the sums intended for it were presented to further that benevolent object.

On the morning of Christmas Day, the newly-married pair went in solemn procession, first to the Royal Cathedral, and then to the Palace of the Crown Prince.

The rejoicings and festivities of the Court continued until the 1st of January without intermission, and on the second day after the festival of Christmas, the other illustrious couple, the Prince Louis and the Princess Frederica, were united.

The Princess Frederica was just two years younger than her sister, having been born on the 28th of March, 1778, and was equally remarkable for extreme personal beauty. She had also a peculiarly affectionate disposition; and the attachment of the two

sisters was doubly cemented by their similar circumstances at this happy period. At a later period their affection was proved in seasons of suffering; and the knowledge of the kind attentions the Princess Frederica manifested to her beloved sister on her death-bed, will enhance our interest in the Queen of Hanover, who, after being twice a widow, was married to the then Duke of Cumberland, in the year 1815.

To the gaieties of Christmas, the amusements of the balls and spectacles of the Carnival quickly succeeded; but the newly-married couple did not enter into the whirl of dissipated pleasures a courtly life can supply; to their pure tastes and cultivated minds, the simpler occupations of domestic life and intellectual enjoyments were far more in unison. The cheerful serenity of their present existence, and the heartfelt benevolence they manifested, was a most beneficial example to their subjects. They were models of domestic felicity; and from the time of her marriage, the Crown Princess was the soul of every tasteful and courtly re-union, and the life of the assembled family.

But, undazzled by exterior pre-eminence, she had already begun to take her views of the world, from that elevated religious position, which, at a later time, produced such glorious results. The period of her childhood had been distinguished by that propitious epoch, when the pure blossoms of poesy were striving with such powerful efforts to develop them-

selves. Herder, Schiller, and Goethe had early attracted her attention and fostered her intellect. She had been distinguished from youth by a correct and acute understanding, and for pious and earnest endeavours after the knowledge of everything appertaining to the good, the true, and the beautiful. She had very early aspired after the reality, rather than the mere appearance of truth, and thus she had acquired great clearness and accuracy. She accustomed herself to connect the visible and sublunary with the invisible and sublime; mortality with immortality. Music, which harmonized so perfectly with her whole existence, she indulged in with a real predisposition, when she was not prevented by higher and more important avocations. She sang sweetly, and had a voice replete with the most touching sensibility, especially when she executed the strains of her fatherland.

In this mode of life, which she adorned and elevated in its various relations by the purity and expansion of her soul, a glorious atmosphere arose, which was so unlike the ordinary condition of existence, that those who were allowed to penetrate its holy precincts, were rendered so happy by her proximity, that she received the appellation of angel from all who thoroughly understood her.

The King was so much delighted with her conduct in every particular, that he took the opportunity of showing it in the most decided manner on the occasion of the anniversary of her natal day, the 10th of March, 1794, when she completed her

eighteenth year, by presenting her with the Palace of Oranienburg, which, being a royal country residence, was well adapted for her summer occupation.

The manner in which the Crown Prince lived with his young consort, excited the admiration of foreigners as well as of their own future subjects.

She, whom her royal father was accustomed to call the Princess of Princesses, she, who saw herself placed in the most prominent position of one of the most brilliant Courts in Europe, the centre of attraction, the queen of every festival, and the admired of all beholders, sought to escape from the glare and splendour of her exterior existence to the tranquil pleasures of domestic life, and in its occupations and duties she found a never failing source of true and delicious enjoyment. Two noble and similarly constituted souls were united, who needed no extraneous advantages to pass their time happily; no tumultuous and intoxicating gaiety was necessary to such equal and happy temperaments. In their own bosoms was a source of inexhaustible felicity of the purest kind; and they found the highest satisfaction in the exercise of that benevolence which both so actively exhibited towards all around them.

This distinguished example shed a bright halo over the whole country; it contributed not a little to foster in the Prussian nation that disposition for all those household virtues and domestic occupations, which, at a later period, and in times of the greatest difficulty and danger, preserved the country.

The Crown Prince spent all the time he could

spare from the preparatory studies and business which were necessary to initiate him in the future government of the country, with his consort, at his estate near Potsdam, called Paretz. This estate he had purchased with his savings; and those who saw this illustrious couple in tranquil retirement, would have found it difficult to imagine that he was to inherit one of the first thrones in Europe, and that she was to be the future Queen of Prussia. Like a country gentleman in the peaceful occupation of cultivating his own estate, the Crown Prince passed this portion of his life in calm enjoyment. The Crown Princess herself regulated the arrangements of her household, spoke unreservedly to every one about her, without any of that false pride which some noblyborn ladies think it necessary to assume, but which deteriorates from the respect they would arrogate to themselves. The Princess, on the contrary, took the greatest pleasure in the simplicity of her domestic arrangements. She was fond of writing, and nature seemed to have given her an especial talent for it, for she wrote with incredible facility, and with that clearness and strict accuracy which were her peculiar characteristics. Every line bore the impress of her natural penetration and intellect, and of well-arranged and digested information. She diligently examined herself on the progress of her understanding, well knowing that only what has been clearly understood can be clearly expressed. Thus she wrote many fragments of diaries, made numerous extracts, and

displayed considerable facility and grace in her correspondence. There is something peculiar to herself in the style of those letters, which she was able to write unreservedly.

And here it may be as well to mention her favourite course of reading, as any particular of this charming woman must be acceptable. She read Gibbon's Decline of the Roman Empire with profound meditation and corresponding advantage, Ancient History occupied her attention at that time, and strengthened her mind. The History of England also interested her greatly. We shall see, at a later period, how deeply the History of Germany affected her, and how some characters amongst her predecessors inspired her with enthusiasm. She read with pleasure Schiller's collection of Memoirs; but with especial delight those witty and valuable Memoirs for which France is so celebrated—those treasures of information to the political and practical world, whence we may trace the causes which preceded and induced the memorable events which followed. She was much pleased with translations from the classics, especially from the old Greek tragedy; and it was natural that the grand, powerful, and energetic views of the classical writers of antiquity should have possessed great attractions for her noble mind. Shakspeare's historical plays, and purely poetical creations had an equal charm for her; the rich and peculiar dominion in which he reigned, and the grand objects which he presents to us, addressed themselves to her intellect,

whilst her mind was capable of ascending to the sublime heights of his poetry in its most elevated flights. It was a summit on which she delighted to rest—for a vivid imagination can only repose in the regions of true sublimity.

Time passed on rapidly, and Paretz ever continued to be the favourite residence of the Crown Princess, who, when she became Queen, still yearned towards the scene of her early connubial happiness. Amidst the brilliancy and splendour which her accession to the throne occasioned, and amidst the heavy and severe trials of her after-life Paretz always remained associated with happy recollections.

With joyful expectation she awaited the period which should unite the duties of the wife with those of the mother; but these hopes were disappointed, for on the 7th of October, 1794, she was delivered of a still-born Princess, to the great regret of the young couple and the whole of the royal family.

But happily on the 15th of October, 1795, the hopes of the royal family were fulfilled by the safe delivery of the Crown Princess of an heir to the throne, to the great joy of the whole nation, and the inexpressible delight of the young mother.

The infant Prince was baptized on the 28th of the same month, and received the name of Frederick William. The Crown Princess, who soon recovered, and enjoyed the most perfect health, now tasted the exquisite felicity of maternal joys without any drawback. From this source of delight she continued to

derive the sweetest pleasures in her prosperity, and her solace during the severe trials of her later years.

In the year 1786, the affectionate heart of the Crown Princess was deeply affected by one of those heavy afflictions in human life, from which a throne is no more exempted than the poorest cottage, and from which none can escape, whether he be distinguished or insignificant, rich or poor. A malignant fever carried off the brother of the Crown Prince in the flower of his youth, for he had not yet attained his twenty-fourth year; he was the husband of her beloved sister Frederica, who was thus left a widow on the 28th of December, 1796, in her nineteenth year. This unexpected blow deeply affected her susceptible heart, for, not only was she attached to her brother-in-law by their double ties of relationship, but the bond of friendship united them still more closely. She knew, and fully appreciated the truthfulness of his disposition, the courage he had manifested in the field of battle, his love of science and art, his benevolence; and she had felt for him the love and esteem of an attached sister.

The year 1797 was an eventful and a chequered year to the Crown Princess. Her domestic circle was enlarged by the birth of her second son on the 22nd of March, who was baptized by the name of Frederick William Louis; and the joy of the royal family was further augmented by the marriage of the Princess Augusta, a sister of the Crown Prince, to the here-

ditary Prince of Hesse. This Princess was deeply attached to her amiable sister-in-law (the Crown Princess), and the feeling was mutual.

On the 10th of June, 1797, the royal family were placed in mourning by the death of the widow of Frederick the Great. The Crown Princess greatly regretted her loss, for she had been loved and venerated on account of her ardent piety and exemplary character, and she entertained for her a species of filial regard.

This illustrious widow, Queen Elizabeth Christine, had attained the advanced age of eighty-two. She was a Princess of the House of Brunswick, was born on the 8th of November, 1715; married to the Great Frederick on the 12th of June, 1732; and had conducted herself with extreme prudence under most peculiar circumstances; she had been a widow since the 17th of August, 1786, and was universally esteemed.

In the same year, namely, 1797, the King, Frederick William II., was gathered to his illustrious ancestors. He died on the 16th of November; and now the Crown Princess Louisa became, by the accession of her husband to the throne, in the expressive language of her people, "The universally beloved and respected mother of the country," the Sovereign of an upright and devoted nation. Her people had already had many opportunities of observing the grace, the condescension, the benevolence, and the affectionate disposition of their new Queen;

and the most joyful anticipations for the future animated every heart.

But the royal diadem, which now adorned her brow, neither rendered her prouder nor happier. The young Sovereign, a Princess of scarcely twenty-one years of her age, in the full bloom of her youth and exquisite beauty, continued to lead the same simple existence in the bosom of her family, and preferred retirement to all the ostentatious display incident to her exalted station, when the duties of her distinguished position permitted. This filled every one with admiration and astonishment.

Up to this period we have seen the Crown Princess associated with her husband in acts of beneficence, both simple and pious in their mode of life, and an exception and example to their contemporaries in a corrupt age; but the interval of inexpressibly happy domesticity which had been enjoyed by the hereditary Prince was over; the King belonged to the State, and, through it, appertained to the world. But the foundation of this domestic happiness remained—it was his consort; she belonged to him, and only through him to the State. To her was confided his happiness and his peace, and he would not submit to those established rules of etiquette which should mar his domestic happiness.

There is something unnatural in these forms, which interpose like a screen between a royal couple; the King disliked restraint, and would not submit to the forms of courtly etiquette; with his satirical

gravity he broke through them: the Queen, with her bounding spirits, leapt over them; both, according to their different dispositions, exhibiting the same unity of thought, confidence and affection. The *Oberhofmeisterin*, the Countess von Vosz, whose duty, by virtue of her position in the household, was to carry out all the ceremonials of royalty, was in despair at this disregard of rules. She delighted in the forms of etiquette herself, and was of opinion that every good thing must be surrounded by a protecting barrier in order to preserve it from desecration; and she constantly instanced the example of the French Court as a proof of the evils arising from the neglect of good old rules. Without the formula of etiquette, according to her ideas, there could be no distinction or dignity, and every thing must degenerate into confusion, and all respect become annihilated.

The Crown Prince had a peculiarly dry and humorous manner of teazing the Countess, without allowing her to guess what he was aiming at, and on these occasions his features assumed a serio-comic expression that was very pleasing.

"Well, then," he said, one day to the Countess, "I will yield to custom, and, in order to give you a proof, I beg of you, Countess, to be kind enough to announce me, and to ask if I may have the honour of speaking with my consort, her Royal Highness the Crown Princess. I wish you to present my compliments to her, and hope she will be graciously pleased to receive them."

The Countess was enchanted with the idea of the courtly etiquette becoming established, and prepared to execute her commission with all due ceremony; and having arrived, full of the importance of her mission, not doubting that a favourable reply would also be entrusted to her as the medium of the negotiation for an audience, she entered the royal apartment, and there, to her great amazement, she beheld the Crown Prince, who had arrived long before her, laughing heartily with the Crown Princess as they were walking hand-in-hand up and down the Saloon. The Prince, in a peal of merriment, cried out:

"Look you now, my good Vosz, my wife and I can see and speak with each other unannounced whenever we choose, and this is as it should be, according to all good Christian usages. But you are a charming *Oberhofmeisterin*, and for the future you shall be called, 'Dame d'Etiquette.'"

To the young Queen, in a measure, was confided the improvement of all that was connected with the domestic and charitable regulations of the State. Whatever was based on religion, morality, the fine arts, Christian love, and benevolence, became more closely associated and more firmly established by her superintendence, and with this holy vocation all her inclinations accorded, for there never was given to mortal a more affectionate and benevolent heart than the Queen possessed.

After the solemn ceremonies of the obsequies of the late King, and the period of mourning assigned

for the Court was concluded, the new Sovereign went to receive the homage of his subjects in the various provinces of his hereditary dominions.

In the month of May, 1798, the royal pair commenced their journey to the eastern provinces. Amongst the oldest inhabitants there was scarcely one who had ever beheld a Queen, for it was a most remarkable circumstance that the Sovereign should be accompanied by his consort to this most remote portion of his dominions; therefore the arrival of both was compared in their own imaginative language, literally translated, to "the apparition of the guardian spirits of the fatherland, the embodied genius of Justice and Mercy, who, wherever they appeared, won all hearts, and more completely subdued by kindness and benevolence than the most powerful weapons could have effected." Wherever the Queen appeared, her majestic figure, her exquisite beauty, her benevolence, her boundless generosity and universal urbanity have left recollections behind her, which will be felt and repeated from generation to generation, and produce their natural and glorious results.

This journey could scarcely be compared to a series of triumphal processions, as it resembled far more a continuation of family rejoicings, where these objects of love and respect were received, as the heads of the family, with joy and universal welcome, and were regretted with the most grateful sentiments of affection after their departure. The Queen set off on the 24th

of May, 1798, attended by the *Oberhofmeisterin*, the Countess von Vosz, and the Maid of Honour, Mademoiselle von Vieregg, for Friesswald, and on the following day proceeded to Stuttgard, in Pomerania, whither the King followed her on the same day.

The Queen was received here by twenty little girls, all dressed in white frocks, trimmed with red ribbons, and with wreaths of evergreens on their heads, who strewed flowers before her, and the eldest presented her, on a cushion tastefully embroidered, a poem written for the occasion.

It was an interesting sight to behold the surprize and emotion of the Queen as these little creatures knelt down before her to kiss the hem of her garments; and the affectionate manner in which she received these expressions of childish veneration from her little subjects, proved how deeply her heart was affected by them.

The King inspected the assembled troops, and the Queen was also present. Thousands of spectators from the adjacent villages and their environs were collected to behold the Sovereigns of their country, and amongst them was an old and venerable peasant, who zealously pressed forward, in order, as he said, to see the King, and, if possible, "*to have a glimpse of his wife's beautiful face;*" but he doubted greatly if this would be permitted, and he almost despaired of seeing the Queen.

A general officer observed his anxiety, and said,

"Father, you would willingly behold your Queen, if you were able to get nearer?" "Ah! truly, that I would, my Lord," replied the peasant, "if it were but possible." "Well, then, come hither," and with these words the General caused him to approach close to him. The old man uncovered his venerable head, gazed with astonished admiration on the lovely Queen, and as he retired backwards with his eyes yet fixed on her sweet countenance, bright tears were flowing down his bronzed cheeks.

From Stuttgard their road lay by Küstrin. At a village not far from this city, the Queen's carriage was surrounded by a whole troop of country people, who were anxious to become personally acquainted with their Sovereign. The Mayor of the village approached the carriage without hesitation, and heartily in his Low German dialect, begged the Queen "to get out of her carriage for a few moments, and accept some refreshment," which they had prepared for her in the zeal and simplicity of their intended homage. She most graciously accepted the invitation, alighted, and partook of their simple fare. What an impression this condescension made on the straightforward, honest inhabitants of this province, need not be more fully described.

On the 29th of May, the Queen entered Küstrin, and was received with all the signs of respect and affection which the love of her people could exhibit. Amongst other testimonials of respect, she was welcomed by thirty young maidens, dressed in white,

chosen from the class of the burghers, to strew flowers before her, who greeted her with the words—"Wolcome, beloved Queen." She answered the happy girls in a graceful and affectionate tone, "I thank you, dear children."

Many instances of kindness and condescension are cited during the period of her stay in this place, proving that she was warmly attached to her "father-land." She had a true maternal regard for her people, and was desirous of spreading universal joy wherever she appeared—an object she well attained on every occasion.

Her arrival in Dantzic was attended with great ceremony, which continued during her stay in that town. The King inspected the troops, which were assembled for that purpose, and the Queen was also present at the review.

In order to render the formal reception of the young Queen more imposing, a deputation of the merchants' companies and the magistrates went to meet her as far as Goppot, a distance of two miles from Dantzic. Here the Queen ascended an eminence in order to behold the extensive and magnificent prospect of the sea, and the beautiful romantic scenery adjacent.

A discharge of cannon announced the approach of the Queen so soon as the carriage entered the great avenue that leads from Langfahr to Jacobsthor, and she was received in the Government-house by the assembled officers of the garrison. The King also,

who had set off on the previous morning from Küstrin, arrived in the evening at Dantzic.

After the termination of the review on the 31st, at which the Queen was present, the royal pair returned to the town, where they received the deputations of the clergy, the elders of the operative classes, and a corporate body or society, called *Schützengilde**, to congratulate them on their accession; and the latter deputation presented a goblet to the King, which a member of the society had retained for him five years —it was a prize which he had obtained, when Crown Prince, as the best shot of the company. This was accompanied by a poem, which the King also most graciously received.

As the Queen was a great admirer of amber, the members of the company of artizans of amber-workers presented her with a handsome necklace of that material, which she wore constantly during her stay in Dantzic, to the great delight of the artizans. On the same day, about noon, the Sovereigns paid a visit to the Electoral Bishop of Ermland, Count of Hohenzollern, with whom they dined. The Prince of Jablonowsky, several generals in the army and many distinguished people were present at dinner, and then went to view the church and garden of the abbey. Thence the Queen, accompanied by the

* In most German towns there are companies of associated amateur riflemen who practise both with the rifle and arquebuse. These fraternities are called Schützengilde.

assembled guests, went in carriages which had been specially prepared for the purpose, by a very agreeable ascent to the Karlsberg, where a most enchanting prospect over mountain, valley, forest and the eastern seas delighted her. A part of the table-land of this mountain has ever since borne the name of Louisa's Grove, and travellers now are always told on approaching its limits, the reason why this appellation was given to it.

On the third day of their arrival, the 1st of June, the greatest festivity prevailed, all the means and appliances of the town were put in requisition for the occasion. Two resident merchants, the Counsellor of Commerce, Franzius, and the merchant, Haneman, launched two ships which were named "the King" and "the Queen," amidst the loudest acclamations of the assembled throng of spectators. After this, the royal pair made an excursion on the Weichsel to the Dantzic harbour. The river, as well as the harbour, was decorated with the flags of the various nations whose ships were there. The different colours and pennons of the vessels, which were manned to their mast-heads by sailors dressed in their uniforms, and decorated with ribbons, presented an interesting and magnificent sight. In the evening, a splendid ball took place in the Artus Court, and a general illumination succeeded this universal festival.

On the 2nd of June there was another review, and the King went very early in the morning, by way of Marienburg, to the place appointed for the inspec-

tion; but the Queen took the nearest road by Frauenberg. She had expressed a wish before her departure from Dantzic to spend the afternoon in the country, therefore the Society of Merchants of Elbing had prepared a collation for her at Clementfort, a mile and a half from the town. About three o'clock, the Queen arrived there and was led to a tent erected for the purpose, where refreshments were prepared; but she declared her intention of waiting dinner for the King, who arrived in the course of half an hour; they then partook of the refreshments provided for them in the tent.

Orders had been promulgated that no one should present a petition either to the King or Queen on this journey; nevertheless, many country people had approached them with this intention. Amongst others, one man presented his written petition kneeling. The King took it as he did many others; but he said to this person: "No man should kneel before any *human being.*"

On the 3rd of June, the Queen arrived in Königsberg. Preparations of all kinds had been made to grace her first entrance into the town, for each and all were anxious, with almost childish eagerness, to contribute in ornamenting the ancient capital of Prussia so as to produce a pleasing impression on the minds of their beloved sovereigns, and to give them proofs of their respect and devotion.

Nearly the whole of the population flocked to meet them. They were greeted with bursts of fervent

acclamations of the most heartfelt welcome and delight, and it was a remarkable and providential circumstance that in such an immense concourse of people in which so many children were mingled, that none received the least injury. Only one thought occupied the minds of so many thousands, the desire of beholding the amiable and august "Mother of the Country," and their beloved King. Both sovereigns condescended to gratify this wish of their attached and devoted subjects, by repeatedly appearing at the palace windows, and remaining some time in order to shew how sensible they were of the affectionate enthusiasm displayed by the thronging multitude.

A Court was held on the 4th, and the deputies of the associated merchants presented their address of congratulation to both the King and the Queen. They took this opportunity of soliciting the Queen's interest to support their petition to the King for the promotion of certain advantages to their commercial affairs. She replied immediately:

"It needs no solicitation of mine, for my consort, independently of any request of mine, will certainly do all that can promote the welfare and happiness of his faithful subjects."

Amongst the proofs of attachment to the royal family, which the Queen received here, were many presents of remarkable workmanship, such as specimens of the perfection of amber-working in Königsberg. At a later period, she signified her gratification in receiving

them, by sending the amber-workers of Königsberg the large gold medal which was struck in commemoration of the accession. A deputation of the French colony established at Königsberg also waited on the Queen to express their attachment to her person and to that of her royal consort. She replied: "My husband and I have both ardently desired to see Prussia. We are penetrated with joy in finding ourselves surrounded by our brave Prussians, who have always distinguished themselves by their attachment to their fatherland, and their love and devotion to their Sovereign."

The delegates of the German companies presented the royal pair with a poem, and the Queen assured the orator of their satisfaction in these words:—"The proof we have had of the good-will and affection of our subjects in Königsberg, will never be forgotten by us."

On the 5th of June, 1798, the ceremony of receiving the homage took place in Königsberg. The King and Queen, attended by their suite, repaired at nine in the morning to the church attached to the palace, where, immediately on their arrival, the service commenced, after which the various delegates of the provinces of ancient Prussia, of Western and Southern Prussia, and those of New Eastern Prussia, repaired in procession from the church to the court of the palace. Surrounded by the Ministers of State, the Bishops and the assembled staff, the new Sovereign appeared in a

balcony on the eastern side of the palace, and under a canopy of crimson took his place upon the throne temporarily erected for him. The Queen witnessed the ceremonial from an open window near the throne, at which she remained during the whole time of the administration of the oaths of allegiance to the deputies, both in the German and Polish languages. At the termination of the ceremony, she received the most hearty cheers.

The deputies now returned to the church, where a "*Te Deum*" was sung. After this, a banquet was prepared for them in the great hall above the palace chapel called the "Moscowitter Saal," to which the members of the royal colleges and other persons of distinction were invited. In the evening, there was a ball in the palace. On the following days, the 6th, 7th, and 8th of June, the King reviewed the troops, and the Queen was also present amongst the spectators.

On the evening of the 6th, the King gave a second ball in the Moscowitter Saal, at which, besides the deputies of the provinces and other distinguished persons, some of the citizens of all classes were invited. The King himself danced with them, and the condescension of the Queen also contributed to inspire the most lively admiration, and to spread universal satisfaction around her. She appeared at this ball in the ornaments presented her by the company of amber-workers.

On the evening of the 8th of June, the members

of the States of Eastern Prussia gave a ball in the royal gardens, which was honoured by the presence of their Majesties. The Queen danced two Polonaises on this occasion. A splendid illumination of the palace took place, and an excursion on the illuminated lakes of the gardens must not be omitted amongs the events that distinguished the day.

Deputies from the Freemasons' Lodges were also permitted to wait on their Majesties, and presented the King and Queen with the words of a serenade which was sung for them. The King's copy was surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves, and the Queen's by a wreath of myrtle. To manifest their sympathy with their fellow-subjects, the companies of the merchants caused the poor to be fed with great profusion, and notice was given to every poor householder that he might receive a dollar, some linen, and a meal consisting of three dishes. The number of those who received this gratuity amounted to more than 1100, and 150 were regaled in the court of the Casino with a good dinner.

On the 9th of June, about noon, the King quitted Königsberg for Warsaw, by way of Georgenburg, and on the following morning, the 10th, about seven o'clock, the Queen followed him by a different route. The corporation of butchers wished to accompany the Queen to Domnau, a distance of about six miles. It was represented to this patriotic body

that they had better give up this intention, as the rapidity of the journey in the great heat would probably be too much for their horses. "All that goes for nothing," replied one of them; "if we only knew that it would not be displeasing to our Queen, we would accompany her even to Warsaw, if all our horses knocked up there, and we were obliged to return on foot."

In this journey, from want of proper caution on the part of the coachman, the Queen's carriage, in descending a hill, was overturned. The *Oberhofmeisterin* vented some reproaches on the carelessness of the coachman, and also of the other servants. The Queen said, however, with great gentleness, "Let it pass over quietly; we are not hurt, and these people have assuredly been more terrified by the accident than we have."

In the smallest and poorest villages of New Eastern Prussia, the Queen was received by the good-hearted peasantry with sincere delight. The cottages were adorned with may-blossoms, and the streets strewed with rushes. On the 13th of June, towards evening, the King arrived in Warsaw, and the Queen followed immediately after: both alighted at the halace within the town. The King had signified that it would be more agreeable to him that no formal preparations should be made to receive either him or his consort, but the inhabitants of that town could not forego the pleasure of publicly testifying their

loyalty to their monarch. The citizens had divided themselves into fraternities or associated companies, and formed a double row of almost a quarter of a mile long from the bridge to the palace, and with their banners waving, saluted their Majesties with the most fervent cheering as they passed. On the steps of the palace stood fifty citizens' daughters; they were dressed in white, with green wreaths on their heads, and baskets of flowers in their hands, which they strewed in honour of the arrival of their Majesties, and this was most graciously acknowledged by both the King and Queen.

On the following morning, his Majesty inspected the troops. At noon there was a banquet given by the King, and in the afternoon the Queen held a Court. In the evening the Privy Counsellor and Minister of State, Count von Hoym, gave a grand supper. The Queen opened the ball which followed this supper by dancing a Polonaise with the Prince Radzivill. Another ball on the following evening was opened by the Queen and the Field Marshal Oginsky. On the evening of the 16th, Count von Hoym gave a sumptuous entertainment in the formerly regal palace of Leczinsky, at which time the gardens, the ships, basins, and docks, were illuminated with more than 67,000 lamps. There was also a triumphal arch, with the ciphers of the King and Queen, in variegated lamps.

On the 18th, very early in the morning, the King left the city. The Queen remained until eight o'clock,

and then took her departure. The citizens of the different guilds or corporations placed themselves in order, and as the carriage approached, some preceded it with their banners, and some followed and accompanied it. Although the considerate Queen had repeatedly dispensed with their attendance on account of the trouble it gave them, she did not choose to abridge their pleasure in following her to the enclosure of Mola. When they arrived there, the companies of the burghers formed two lines, inclined their colours to the ground, and amidst the loudest cheers, which accompanied her as she rapidly quitted them, she continued her journey.

We will now accompany the august traveller on her visit to the homes of the honest and upright Silesians. On the frontiers which formerly divided Silesia from the south of Prussia, a triumphal arch was erected for her entrance, with the inscription of "Welcome beloved Mother of the Country to Silesia." Four-and-twenty husbandmen stood there in their holiday clothes, and sang a Polish song. A second arch was erected at the entrance of the little town, with the words "Vivat Louisa," and among the trees stood twenty burghers' daughters, who strewed flowers. In the market-place she was received by the clergy, the magistrates, and the corporation, the latter with their banners displayed; and amidst flourishes of trumpets and drums, she proceeded to the end of the town, where a third arch was erected, with the inscription: "Let thy favor

remain with us." At this spot many young girls were stationed, who strewed roses; and amidst loud cheers, the young Sovereign proceeded on her journey. Through the little town of Kleinkösel and the Polish suburb, the whole way was covered with foliage and evergreens. The assembled inhabitants of the villages of Kleinkösel and Wiosko had placed themselves in two lines, and sixteen peasant girls in their Sunday clothes greeted the Queen with a lively national air in the Polish language. As she approached the town of Wartenburg, the cannons were fired, and the bells set ringing. At the gate, twenty-four youths, sons of the burghers, dressed in white, with green boughs in their hands, preceded the carriage to the market-place, where the horses were to be changed. A young girl gaily dressed in pink and white garments presented the Queen with a poem, which she received with her wonted grace, and then proceeded through a double line of the collected burghers to a rustic temple, formed of green pines, interspersed with evergreens and flowers. The cupola of this temple was adorned with a black eagle with extended wings. In the back-ground appeared the name of "Louisa" in transparent letters, above it a crown of gold, and behind it a regal mantle. In the centre stood an altar surrounded by eight young girls, dressed in white, apparently feeding the bright flame on the altar. Near this temple stood the catholic and evangelical clergy. As soon as the Queen's

carriage appeared she was hailed with enthusiasm in strains of cheerful national music, and six of the girls came forward from the temple to both sides of the carriage, whilst the other two flung incense on the flame of the altar; they sang a song in parts, in which a chorus of sixty-eight young girls, also dressed in white, joined. The effect of so many female voices, in strict harmony, was very good; after which the maidens engaged in ministering to the flame on the altar came forward and presented the Queen with the song they had just sung and a bouquet of the choicest flowers. Then came forward twenty maidens, similarly attired, to strew flowers; and lastly, at a triumphal arch erected and adorned for the occasion, was the inscription of "Our best wishes accompany thee."

The reception at Oels was celebrated with equal festivity, where the Queen arrived on the evening of the 21st, and remained until the morning of the 23rd, on which day she commenced her journey to Breslau. She had declined all music and presentations of poems, therefore, her reception was apparently less tumultuous in its joy than in many other towns through which she had passed. In Handsfeld she was received by the Governor of the town in the name of the Breslau magistrates. The intention of the peasants who furnished the last relays had been already displayed, for the horses destined for the young Queen had been pompously decorated, as if for a

wedding or a christening. They were ornamented, according to the custom of these towns, with flowers, ribbons, and gold and silver paper. The manes were plaited with ribbons and flowers, and on their heads a red net was attached. The Queen received this demonstration of rustic gallantry with smiles and her wonted grace, and continued her route.

The first troop she encountered was that of the market-gardeners in their remarkable costume. They saluted the royal visitor in their peculiar manner, with their coloured handled switches. Then came the associated company of Breslau butchers, behind them the Kretschmers, both in companies of sixty, each on horseback. The masons were on foot. After these fraternities came a troop of ninety female gardeners, with twenty-four gardeners' sons, who joined in procession: one half of whom preceded, and the other half concluded the procession. They were all adorned with flowers, and walked in pairs: and each held a basket of flowers to strew before the sovereign. A young girl, who was to present a poem, was apparently too timid to come forward. The Queen stretched out her hand to receive it, and encouraged her with some affectionately kind words and thanks. This poem was written in the *naïve* dialect of the market-gardeners, and expressed with the simplicity and straightforwardness of the common people such lively and natural feelings of rustic goodwill, that it seemed as if it were really composed by one of them.

Further on, near the church of the Eleven Thousand Virgins, stood a deputation of the community of the Jews, and there a very considerable body of the Schützengilde who were formed in line, presented arms. From the centre of the line, the Mayor of the town, in the name of the inhabitants, addressed the Queen in a short but appropriate speech, which she answered with her own peculiar and indescribable grace.

She now approached the bridge of the Oder, where a new prospect awaited her. The dark stream, in contrast with the verdure of the island, formed by the double course of the river, the ramparts, the Jesuits' College in the back-ground, with its observatory, the old tower at the right, called Elizabeth's Tower: all these, taken collectively, formed artistical materials for a picture; but now the living mass of spectators, as they streamed forth from all quarters, formed the principal feature in the scene. In the middle of the bridge two balconies were erected, in which stood fifty burghers' daughters dressed in white. The Catholic University had caused German music to be played in the tower above; and in the street Turkish music was played alternately. As the Queen approached, the students placed in double file commenced a national air, and at the Salsringe the merchants' wives and daughters had formed themselves into a picturesque group. Thus the beloved "Mother of

the Country" passed through the gate of the Oder direct to the palace.

Here she was received by the principal civil and military officers and clergy. The Prince of Hohenlohe Ingolfingen, the State Minister, Count von Hogen, the Presidents of the Colleges, and the Counsellors of the University, and other persons of distinguished rank and condition. Immediately after her entrance into the palace, poems from the associated merchants, the Schützengilde, the Kretschmers and other fraternities, were brought to her. The merchants presented the Queen with some of the purely Silesian productions of the country. These consisted of the most exquisitely woven pieces of linen and the finest veils, and amongst other pretty and ingenious articles for children, was a cradle quilt of exquisite needlework, and a very handsome rattle of silver for an infant, attached to a gold chain. The rattle was of an antique form, and the portion of it intended for the infant's mouth was composed of an admirable specimen of chrysophras. As these kind of toys are generally ornamented with bells and other decorations, these were supplied by little medals, with the profiles of the King and Queen, with this inscription on the reverse side "Resemble them."

These offerings were associated with the deep interest her subjects manifested in everything that personally concerned the Queen. To understand the

feelings of the Silesians in selecting these presents as suitable and likely to gratify the Queen, it should be stated that she was very near her confinement. The cradle quilt had the following lines inscribed on it:—

"Trifling is the gift,
Which to the expectant mother,
We loyal Silesian mothers present.
But thou regardest the heart.
Princess, we desire so ardently that thou should'st remember this country,
Which loves and honours thee with filial affection,
That we offer thee
What it produces, cultivates, and manufactures,
Associated with the feelings, which as a mother pervade thy soul."

All these articles were placed in an elegant basket, and were brought by two little girls of ten years of age, accompanied by a delegation of the most considerable merchants' wives, to invite the Queen to honour a ball with her presence, which their husbands had prepared for her at the Zwinger (Exchange). The Queen said many gratifying things to these delegates in commendation of the presents they had brought her, and the delight she afforded by her courteous reception of them was never forgotten. The other deputations from corporate bodies were received with her usual condescension and affability, and she frequently repeated these words, "I shall assuredly never forget the good Silesians."

Amongst the rejoicings which took place at some distance from the town, a fête in honour of the royal pair was given by the Governor of Scheitnig, the Prince of Hohenlohe Ingolfingen, which deserves especial notice. It was a ball and supper, with a very tastefully arranged illumination. The lighted tower, a part of which is on the Oder and Meyda, announced the commencement of the entertainment by fireworks, and the gardens were splendidly illuminated. The entrance was surrounded by many hundred pillars, interspersed with little illuminated baskets of flowers and innumerable lamps. A similar colonnade, covered with cloth, formed the gallery which connected the two saloons. In the first, upwards of a hundred guests supped, and in the second, above three hundred. There was a temple constructed after the antique models, with great taste, with Doric pillars. In this temple stood the bust of the King on a pedestal, surrounded by three transparent figures—Genius with a cornucopia, Minerva crowned with a wreath of laurel, and Mars. In the back-ground of two wide illuminated avenues were seen architectural temples decorated with illuminations and allegories. In one of them there was a glass transparency with the crown and the King's name in variegated coloured glass letters, which glittered in the bright light like crystal. In another temple a vestal was seen kneeling before an altar, behind which stood a beautiful bust of the

Queen; she held a golden vessel in one hand, from which she poured the incense that fed the flame on the altar; above was the Prussian eagle, composed of small pieces of transparent glass, which had a very beautiful effect. There was also a circular temple, tastefully illuminated. The statue of Frederick the Great, and a tall pillar resembling that of Trajan, on which stood the statue of Frederick William II., were also brilliantly illuminated, as was the whole town of Breslau, for the return of their Majesties after the entertainment. It was again lit up the next evening, when the Minister of State, Count von Hoym, gave a ball and supper.

On the 26th the Queen commenced her journey on her return to Berlin, and on the 1st of July arrived safely at Charlottenburg, having travelled through the greater portion of the Prussian States. This journey laid the foundation of that universal love and esteem, which she won so speedily, and which operated so mightily at a later period. She was formed apparently to win all hearts, and she did win them. In the words of one of her panegyrists, the impression left by the Queen's personal charms and behaviour, during the journey, is thus described:—

"Her extraordinary beauty was animated by an eye that beamed with the lustre of her clear intellect and truthful disposition. Whoever has once seen its intelligence can never forget it; and it is the privilege and boast of her subjects that they were inspired by

her glance, and summoned by it to devote themselves to the good, the true, and the beautiful. Whoever beheld the Queen without being transported and inspired by the contemplation of her dignity and gracefulness? An inexpressible charm pervaded her every movement, but this gracefulness was not merely external, it proceeded from the depth of her inmost soul, and thus produced that extreme sensibility for which she was so remarkable."

The following letter from the King to his intimate friend and confidant, the General von Köckeritz, on his accession to the throne in November, 1797, gives an insight to the character and intentions of the young Monarch, who was then only twenty-seven years of age. It exhibits the purity of his intentions, and the upright conduct which he pursued during the whole period of his reign. The Queen, who was so much attached to him, and over whose mind he had naturally great influence, is indirectly concerned, at least, in this transcript of the royal writer's sentiments; and it must be, therefore, acceptable to the readers of her life. The King had become sincerely attached to Köckeritz when Crown Prince, and he soon honoured him with his confidence. How complete that confidence was, may be best drawn from his letter. The royal rescript is in the following words:—

"During the time I have known you, my dear

Köckeritz, more particularly during the latter years in which I have had daily opportunities of close observation—I have been more and more convinced that I have in you a man, who, by his elevated mind, correct discernment, natural understanding, firm character, and proved integrity, may be able hereafter to render me most distinguished services. On the above grounds I feel justified in placing entire confidence in you. I am a young man who knows as yet too little of the world to depend on himself without the fear of being deceived by dishonest men, notwithstanding every precaution; therefore advice must be welcome to me when honestly meant. This good counsel I more particularly expect from you; and I repeat it again, on the grounds above stated.

"I therefore beg that you will always remain my friend, even as you have been up to this time; change not your manner towards me, and be convinced that I will always remain the same, be my title what it may. In my present position I have greater need of a trusty friend and counsellor than any man. Nothing, however, is more difficult to obtain. How often have well-intentioned rulers erred through want of such, and how often has their choice turned out unfortunate! That cannot be in your case, I know you too well, and am therefore on sure ground; but permit me to put one question: 'Will you always remain the same as now? always thus think, and act?' Oh, do so! not suffering yourself to be dazzled

by my rank; but ever keep on the straightforward path, not permitting yourself through blind ambition, nor selfishness, to be deluded, nor allow yourself to be outwitted by fallacious representations. Avoid party spirit, and act firmly according to your own inward conviction; that is, according to duty and conscience. Do not think, when you read this, that I have the least suspicion that you can possibly act otherwise. No, truly not; I hold such to be impossible with you; but history proclaims loudly, that the best of mankind, when arrived at a certain height, become giddy, and are liable to fall.

"Although you may feel such a change to be impossible, delay not to examine your motives and actions by these tests, remembering always that you also are man, and therefore liable to err. That you possess great knowledge of mankind, that you are capable of justly estimating them, I have had the opportunity of proving; and in this you must help me. None err more in estimating mankind than a prince; and this is very natural; for all are anxious to show themselves to the best advantage, sagaciously keeping out of sight their blemishes, ever appearing to the Prince's eyes different to what they really are. The inclinations of princes are soon learnt, and the adroit man has no great difficulty in adopting the most appropriate mask. Therefore do I expect that you will silently, and without suffering it to be known that you have particular views, look around

for brave, upright, and intelligent men; test them in order that I may know in what manner they can be made available and better provided for.

"You must also endeavour to find out what the public opinion is as relates to myself, my measures, and my purposes; weigh those opinions, and if they seem important, then speak with such persons as you believe capable of conversing on this matter, devoid of prejudice and party spirit. But as everything has a good as well as bad aspect, the circumstances must be nicely weighed, so as to see which preponderates; if the former, then let them be brought into operation. Unfair criticism may be passed over, more especially when it proceeds from persons who take an erroneous view of things, or have objects of their own to serve. We must not suffer ourselves to be irritated by such observations, otherwise we can effect nothing: shallow and impertinent opinions are inevitably wrong. Therefore one must always act from the inward conviction of what is right and just, and in the end matters will be rightly adjusted. When you have made these inquiries, I expect that you will take a fitting opportunity to communicate to me your candid opinions. Be assured that I will never undervalue your good intentions and information, but endeavour to turn them to beneficial account.

"There is another weighty matter in which I mean to avail myself of your services. After much

reflection, I can think of no better measure for remedying the disorganised state of the finances, and placing them on a well-regulated and firm system, than by selecting able and experienced men of business to form a commission which shall examine into all the branches of government, and then report to me the abuses, and the best means of improvement; that so I may examine for myself, and make such changes as I shall think advisable.

"It will be of the utmost importance that the members of this commission work in unison, and that no party spirit be mixed up in it, and that they be guided solely by the welfare of the state, which object must be kept constantly in view. But experience teaches that men of great talent seldom agree, and that much evil occurs through their dissensions; and the object is often frustrated by the caprice of individuals. Therefore, for president of such commission, no one is more fitted than yourself. You possess the very character and temper requisite for such a post, therefore my choice has fallen on you, requesting you to observe the following rules. You will be present at all the conferences, in order that you may be fully master of the subject, so that you can report concisely the same to me. You know the disposition of my mind; should you therefore see that they are inclined to go too far, and thus risk failure of my good intentions, your judgment and coolness will be the best and readiest means of pre-

serving equanimity; moreover, you possess the natural eloquence necessary for such an object.

"From all this you will perceive, that in future you will have a large sphere of action. Continue, therefore, the same upright man you have hitherto been; and, as an honest subject, give me at all times candid advice. You may then be assured of my fullest gratitude; at the same time bear in mind that what you do is not only a favour done to me, but, to a certain degree, a duty to the State; you will, hereafter, have the agreeable conviction and satisfaction of having assisted, not a little, in the weal and advancement of the nation, and thereby deserved the thanks of every well-thinking patriot. For a man of real worth and honourable ambition, there can be no greater or better reward.

FREDERICK WILLIAM.

The 16th November, 1797.

On the 7th of July, 1798, the young King received, in the Great Hall of the Knights in the royal palace at Berlin, the homage and allegiance of the delegations on the part of Kurmark and Neumark, the ducal dominions of Silesia, Magdeburg; Cleves, Pomerania, the margravates of Anspach, and Baireuth, the principalities of Halberstadt, Minden, and Ostfriesland, and the counties of Mark, Ravensberg, Teklenberg, and Lingen.

The young Queen, accompanied by the Queen-

Mother and the Princesses of the royal family, witnessed this solemn ceremony, at the conclusion of which, the oath of allegiance was taken by the delegates of the citizens, and this, which took place in the pleasure-garden, was terminated by a discharge of cannon amid hearty shouts of "Long live the King Frederick William III."

For these reiterated acclamations, the King expressed his thanks to his citizen subjects by repeatedly bowing and saluting them by waving his hands from the balcony of the palace. The Queen, who was delighted with this expression of loyalty on the part of the burghers, also acknowledged this burst of enhtusiasm with her own peculiar gracious demeanour.

The important ceremony of receiving the homage of the different States concluded with a banquet. Seventy-six different tables were spread in the large apartments of the upper stories of the palace.

On the 13th of July, the Queen was happily delivered of a Princess, who was baptized the following month on the King's birthday, the 3rd of August, 1798, by the name of Frederica Louisa Charlotte Wilhelmina.*

To give an idea of the private life of the King and

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* The present Empress of Russia. She was the first of the royal children born after the accession.

Queen at this period, a letter from the great friend of the King, General Köckeritz, dated 22nd September, 1798, may be given in this place. He says:

"I have passed some delightful days with our gracious Sovereigns at their estate called Paretz, two miles from Potsdam. We have been very happy, and have amused ourselves with all the resources a country life affords; shooting and excursions on the water have diversified our occupations. My royal master would not have exchanged the delicious repose of the country, which has as many charms for him as for his amiable consort, for the turmoils of business, had not the most pressing affairs required his presence in the capital. This good and amiable couple delight in the simple pleasures of nature without the restraint their high rank imposes, and they have enjoyed the fêtes of the harvest, by participating in the happiness of the country people, and their *naïve* expressions of pleasure at the presence of the royal family have afforded infinite amusement. The young and beautiful Queen forgot her royal dignity, and danced, to the great delight of the peasants, amongst their sons and daughters. Here we were all on the best understanding possible, freedom and equality, but not degenerating into carelessness. I, myself, laid my fifty-five years aside and danced away merrily as well as the stately Oberhofmeisterin von Vosz, who, being asked by her royal master to dance with him, was of course

happy to join in our amusement. Oh! we were all as merry as innocent happy children."

The King was resolute in his rejection of external forms, which restrained his natural inclinations. One day there was a question as to the ceremonial required for the reception of the congratulations of a foreign Court, which was to take place with all due forms of etiquette in Berlin the following day. The Countess von Vosz, who knew the minutest details in all such cases, remarked that on such a grand occasion the state-carriages should be used, and that the King and Queen must have the royal state-carriage, with eight horses richly caparisoned, two state-coachmen, and three state-footmen in their best state livery. "Well," said the King, "you may order it as you will." The next morning, when the brilliant equipage came up, the King put the Countess into the carriage, shut the door very suddenly, and cried out to the coachman, "Go on." He then jumped into his own ordinary open carriage, with two horses only, which he was in the habit of driving himself, and thus drove the Queen immediately behind the Countess in the state-carriage, amidst the laughter and delight of the bystanders.

By such cheerful sallies he contrived to render the mortification of the poor Countess less annoying to her, when he resolutely resisted all her little schemes for the due observance of royal customs. "I am," he would say, "restrained on all sides, and plagued quite enough externally; and I will, in my domestic life at

least, enjoy the freedom and independence of a private gentleman in the bosom of his own family."

The matrimonial relations, therefore, of the King and Queen were precisely those of any other well-assorted happy couple. Most affectionate and simple was the behaviour of the royal pair in their interior, and a trifle would often cause mirth at the royal table, which might be supposed to be beneath the consideration of royal personages. But nothing is a greater proof of a happy state of existence than the capacity for finding amusement in trifles. An instance of this playfulness on the part of the Queen may be given here. It occurred not long after the accession to the throne. Prince Louis, the late brother of the King, had taken great interest in a fisherman of the town of Schwedt, with whom he had frequently made little excursions on the Oder, and he promised the good old man that he would build a house for him better able to contain his large family. The sum required for this was 6000 dollars (about £450), and the Prince had proposed to pay this in four instalments. On payment of the first the building was begun; but before the next quarter the Prince died, and soon after the fisherman died also. The building, therefore, was not continued, and nobody troubled themselves about the widow and children. The poor woman wended her way with a heavy heart to Berlin, for she knew that Prince Louis had a brother who was a greater man than himself: if she could but see him, she might get the house finished. She thought this

would be almost impossible, but she found, on the contrary, that she had but to request to see the King, for at that time he was always accessible to his subjects, when their interests required his private ear, although he was often importuned most unnecessarily. At a later period some regulations were obliged to be made to spare his time, as he was naturally too much occupied by the numerous affairs of state he was obliged to consider. The fisherman's wife began her address to the King in the patois of her native town. "Is he the brother of the dead Prince Louis? Well, then, his brother was a very honourable man, and I think he is an honourable man also, and if he is, he will let me have my house built." The King smiled, made all the necessary inquiries, and then gave her an order himself to have the house finished. "Ah! but will the people in Schwedt respect this order?" said the woman. "I think they will," replied the King, smiling; "you must let me know if they do not." The widow took leave, and some time after she presented herself once more at the palace, to see the brother of the dead Prince Louis, as she still called the King, and requested an audience. So soon as the King appeared, she cried out, "Because I have found him as honourable a man as his brother I have brought him a little present. Here is a basket of lampreys for his dinner to-day." The King received her gift goodnaturedly, and dismissed her with kind wishes and a present, took the basket of fish himself into the Queen's sitting-room, and presenting her

with it cried out, "See what a fine present I have received to-day. It is valuable; for what love delights in presenting, must always give pleasure to receive." The Queen entered into the spirit of the thing, and at dinner she took care that these lampreys should be considered the principal dish at table—that they should be decorated with flowers, and duly honoured. She recounted the anecdote to the convivial guests assembled; and playfully selecting the best lampreys from the dish, put them on a plate decorated with flowers, and sent them with significant looks to the King for his dinner, requiring him to do justice to his own present, and take nothing beside for his dinner that day.

The intimate circle of the royal family was composed of tried and valued friends, rather than formal courtiers, and the Queen's condescending manners set them personally at ease, and produced that freedom in the interchange of opinions, which is so necessary in the conversation of enlightened minds. Nothing could exceed the kindness she manifested towards those who were valued by their King, nor the sweet smile with which she welcomed her guests, and the graceful manner in which she broke up the party at the dinner table; she seemed almost to express a species of gratitude for their presence, as having contributed to the enjoyment of the King and she paid the most marked attention to those who were his especial friends and companions. She manifested this on every occasion: one proof will suffice.

The bosom friend of the King, during his life, was the General von Köckeritz; he was, consequently, a daily guest at the royal table, and treated as a member of the family. The Queen had remarked for some time past that the good old man retired earlier than formerly, and sooner than was agreeable to the King, who liked to have his society for some time after the dinner was removed. The Queen asked the reason, but the King merely said, "Let the brave old man do as he likes; perhaps after dinner he prefers repose in private." The Queen, however, with her restless activity, soon found out the reason of his early departure. It had become necessary to the good old soldier, from long habit, to smoke his pipe immediately after dinner, and he retired, therefore, to indulge this (to him) physical necessity. On the following day, when he was as usual excusing himself from remaining longer, the Queen hastened forward, and, with her sweet face full of merriment, placed a well-filled pipe, with matches to light it, in the hands of Köckeritz, saying: "My good old friend, to-day you don't escape us. You must smoke your pipe with us here. Now, then, commence at once." The King cast a glance of affectionate approbation at the Queen, saying: "Dear Louisa, you have done that admirably." The faithful subject accepted the permission to smoke his accustomed pipe with gratitude, and he ever after continued to avail himself of this privilege.

A collection of anecdotes of the Queen would be but the recapitulation of various traits of her affectionate disposition, which was universally benevolent and compassionate to every living creature. She could not endure the sight of suffering in the brute creation, and she proved this on one occasion by a charming trait of humanity: "As she was going to Stern, a hunting seat in the time of Frederick William I., which is near Potsdam, she saw a poor calf bound, and lying before a butcher on horseback, with its head hanging down, in the most painful position. She stopped the man, bought the calf at a high price, caused it to be brought to the meadows of Neugarten, and to be properly taken care of. She looked to it occasionally herself; it was a great favourite, and afterwards, when it was old enough to give milk, she always desired to have that in preference to any other."

In every thing she did there was a child-like ardour which converted an ordinary occurrence into a higher object of interest. The extent of her popularity may be deduced from her own enthusiasm. She acted generally on the impulse of the moment—for instance, in May, 1798, whilst sitting in a peasant's cottage in Pomerania, eating milk porridge with the good woman, who was giving her information on the nourishment and pasture of cattle; she took a valuable pin from her own breast and gave it to the delighted peasant, for a remembrance of their evening meal, pressing her hand kindly as she presented it. On another

occasion, she took a handsome necklace from her own throat and presented it to Goethe's mother, (after a long and interesting conversation on German literature,) as a testimony of respect for the mother of that colossal genius who had rendered the little Court of Weimar a focus of general interest throughout all Germany. Thus to confer favours and pleasure at the same time is a rare gift. It is a blessing from heaven when the talent and the will are equally in unison with the power, as in the case of a Sovereign, who, like Queen Louisa, was ever impressed with the duties of her exalted station, and, at the same time, ever alive to the claims of sympathy. Goethe's mother respected her exalted talents and virtues, but was not more truly convinced of her noble qualities, than the poor peasant who was penetrated with love and veneration, when with streaming eyes she received the condescending pressure of the Queen's hand.

As the King had only visited certain parts of his dominions in the year 1798, namely, the provinces of Kurmark and Newmark, Pomerania, Prussia, and Silesia, he prepared to gratify the expressed wishes of his faithful people in the other provinces, by commencing a journey, accompanied by his beloved consort, through the rest of his dominions.

This journey was commenced on the 25th of May, 1799, from Potsdam, and they proceeded first to Magdeburg, and from thence to Westphalia and the

Frankish Principality, whence they paid visits to the different members of their families in Cassel, Hildburghausen, Hanau, Weimar and Dessau. In these journeys, the beloved Queen attracted all hearts by her condescension, benevolence, and goodness, and created ties which united so many faithful hearts around her in the closest and firmest links of affection and fidelity. She was ever actively employed in protecting the interests and happiness of her people, and she was everywhere received as the benefactress and guardian angel of the kingdom.

In this tour, the details of which may be passed over as being somewhat similar to the former journey, she had the happiness of seeing her beloved brothers and sisters again, amongst whom was her youngest sister, Frederica, the widow of Prince Louis, but who had been married a second time on the 10th of December, 1798, to the Prince Frederick William of Solms Braunfels. The royal pair visited Frankfort-on-the-Maine on the 25th of June, and the sweet recollections which were associated with the place of their first meeting, and the happy union it had produced, contributed greatly to render her short stay in Frankfort agreeable, "by heightening the joys of the happy present with remembrances of the happy past," as she herself declared.

Throughout this journey she had had many opportunities of showing her natural generosity, and of patronizing works of art. Her affability had been

frequently manifested to all classes. She had shewn sympathy for the suffering, and kindness to all. Those who had the happiness of conversing with her, were struck with her accurate information, and her presence, wherever she appeared, diffused universal delight. The places where she rested are consecrated and have been embellished according to their relative positions; they are considered objects of interest and veneration which will descend to posterity. What Goethe has so beautifully expressed, may truly be said with reference to her. It may be thus translated: "The place which the good have once occupied is holy. After the lapse of ages, their words are re-echoed, and their actions throw a halo around their posterity."

On the 8th of July, the inhabitants of Berlin greeted their beloved and long-absent "*Landes Mutter*," on her safe return to her home and her little family. During the whole journey no accident had occurred, except on the road to Weimar, where the drag-chain of the Queen's carriage broke whilst descending a steep hill. The consequences might have been fearful had not the postillion thrown down the horses, which stopped the carriage. The attention which the Queen, during her journey, had bestowed on works of art, the encouragement she had given to projects tending especially to promote industry, and the assistance which artists who were richer in talent

than in money had received from her soon became universally known, and it inspired fresh zeal and activity in order to become similarly distinguished.

A liberal patroness of all that was beautiful in art, she took the warmest interest in promoting talent, and sought by every means in her power to stimulate it to greater exertions by the most honorable distinctions. Yet still more nobly were her efforts directed as a compassionate friend of suffering humanity. In poverty and sickness she was indeed a ministering angel, for nothing produced such sincere joy in her susceptible heart, as to be the means of assisting the needy or succouring the oppressed.

All the details of her various acts of charity which are known, would take up far too much space for the present purpose, for she was a universal benefactress; but a few in which her maternal heart (full of affection for her subjects) exhibited some of its traits of benevolence may be given. Amongst the numerous parties who were accustomed to walk in the royal gardens of Charlottenburg on a Sunday, free entrance being allowed to the people generally, a number of orphan boys and girls were seen by the King and Queen who were standing at a window; they sent to inquire to what establishment the children belonged, and on receiving the reply that they came from the orphan institution of Frederick the Great, it was signified to their superintendent that when they had

wandered about the gardens as long as they liked, they might repair to the orangery, where the affectionate "*Landes Mutter*" ordered a supper to be prepared immediately; and the happy children, to the number of seventy, were regaled with an excellent meal. Other traits of her kind disposition will be found in their respective places. This occurred in September, 1799.

In the night of the 13th of October, 1799, the royal family was increased by the safe delivery of the Queen at Potsdam, of a daughter, who was baptized on the 8th of November, by the name of Frederica Augusta Carolina Amelia; but this Princess, to the great grief of her devoted mother, died on the 31st of March in the following year of the hooping-cough. This was the fifth child born of their Majesties' happy union. The concord of that union was such that even in little discrepancies of opinion, their feelings were ever in unison, and their mode of demonstrating their feelings was characterized by affectionate playfulness. A household scene at Potsdam is not to be omitted.

The King was accustomed to take his breakfast in the Queen's apartments, however busy he might be, even if he had but a moment to take this meal, which generally was composed of fresh fruit or other simple viands. On one occasion, as he entered, he saw lying on her work-table a very pretty head-dress, which seemed to him to be quite new. He asked her, jestingly, the price of this pretty cap.

"It is not always right," said the Queen, also in a tone of pleasantry, "that men should know the price of women's toilettes; they don't understand them, and they always find every thing too dear." "Well, but you can tell me the price of this cap, and I should like to know it." "Oh! certainly I can, I bought it a great bargain, I only gave four dollars for it." "Only!—a horrible price for such a thing; what a large sum of money!" Whilst he continued to run on satirically on the subject, he was standing at the window, and an old veteran of the guard, an invalid, highly respected, passed by. The King beckoned him to come in, and as he entered the room, the King said: "The lady who is sitting on that sofa has a great deal of money; now what ought she to pay for that little cap that lies on the table? You must not be dazzled by the beautiful pink ribbons, but say what you think it is worth." The old soldier of course knowing nothing of such things, said after shrugging up his shoulders, and pausing to think, "Why, I suppose it would cost some groschen (pence)." "There, now," said the King, "do you hear that? Groschen, indeed! that thing cost four dollars. Now go and ask that pretty lady for four dollars, she can well afford to *give you* as much as she can afford to *pay for that.*" Smiling, the Queen opened her purse and presented the good old veteran with four dollars most cheerfully, kindly adding a few condescending words. "And now," continued

the Queen, with an arch look, still imitating the King's tone of merry satire; "you see that noble gentleman standing at the window, he has much more money than I have. All I have I receive from him, and he gives very freely. Now, go to him and ask him for double what you have received of me; he can afford to give you eight dollars." The King laughed, acknowledged he was caught in his own trap, gave the sum she had so playfully forced him to give, through her extravagance, as he called it, and heartily wished the old invalid good luck with his present. The affair was, of course, repeated in the anti-chamber, and was received with peals of laughter.

The veteran's name was Christian Brandes, who told this anecdote to Bishop Eylert himself. He also added, that when the King returned to Potsdam, after the death of the Queen, he saw his royal master, who remembered his features perfectly, and whilst making him a little present, said, with a countenance of sorrow, "Brandes, dost thou remember?"—and then turned quickly away.

With such reciprocal good-will and active demonstrations of benevolence, it was natural that every little wild flower on their path of life should furnish honey for the nourishment of those so capable of enjoying a species of happiness needing no foreign aid.

As the royal children grew up, they were a source of delight, that can only be felt when the

stream of parental tenderness proceeds with the same even current of affection in the same channel from united hearts. The King and Queen were so indispensible to each other in their domestic circle, that neither seemed to be at ease without the presence of the other. But this reciprocal tenderness was not exhibited in a mere display of sentimentality; it was proved as much by what was not done as by what was manifested. The King endeavoured to save the Queen from the anxiety and vexation that oppressed him, with the most delicate "*prévoyance*," so long as it was possible to keep from her the knowledge of any painful occurrence. The Queen was so fully convinced of this watchful affection that she could not enjoy anything without the presence of the King. She ever wore his portrait as her favorite ornament; and when she was once requested to lend it to be copied, in order that an engraved portrait might be placed at the commencement of a valuable work, she lent it with these words, "I possess no good resemblance of the King but the one I have constantly in my bosom; it will give me pain to part with it for any length of time; nevertheless I will not oppose the wishes of the publisher, and I will cheerfully make the sacrifice of parting with it for a short time."

On one occasion, at an early period after her accession, when she had arrived late in the evening at a *fête* which she had promised to honour with her pre-

sence, she excused herself to the Cabinet Minister who gave it, with these words, "My husband had very pressing business, which detained him, and without him I could not come." This feminine expression of dependance was not assuredly a mere conventional custom: she yielded to her natural disposition, by making her own pursuits subservient to the more important occupations of the King, and that with a sweetness of temper which might be envied in any domestic union.

The author of the book, "Briefes Eines Verstorbenen," which Goethe highly estimated as a classical work, uses an English word, adding, that there is no German word so expressive: "The English word 'temper,'" he continues, "is untranslatable; only a nation which possesses the word 'comfort,' could have invented it; for 'temper' is to intellectual what 'comfort' is to material enjoyment. It is like a mild spring morning, which inspires universal serenity and joy."

The Queen's influence was assuredly great over her immediate circle, but she never stepped beyond her own sphere of action, and never interfered in politics. The King would not have valued her so highly, had she been capable of insinuating or taking indirect paths to influence him. He was peculiarly sensitive of his prerogative, and the Queen was so well aware of this, that when she was sometimes requested to speak to the King on matters connected

with the State, or to prefer a request to him, she used to reply, "You must speak to the King about it yourself. With him there is no necessity for taking any indirect means to obtain what is just and right."

One day the King was excessively anxious to finish some important business, and as he shut himself up in his private cabinet for this purpose, he desired his adjutant to remain in the anti-chamber, and to allow no one, be it whom it might, to interrupt him. The adjutant, von L., (who repeated this anecdote himself,) declared the King's pleasure to all who requested an audience that morning; but scarcely an hour had elapsed when a foreign Prince arrived, whom the King had desired to see as soon as possible, having something most important to consult upon with him. The adjutant knew this, and therefore supposed he might make an exception in this case, and proceeded to announce the Prince. The King started up and said, impatiently, "I have desired you to forbid any one from interrupting me, and yet you do so. One is plagued to death every hour; there is no bearing it." The adjutant, much distressed, asked if he should send the royal visitor away. The King could not well do this, so he very unwillingly received him. As the King was quietly seated with the Queen at the theatre the same evening, she remarked, with her usual sympathy in his feelings: "I was sorry to hear that you were disturbed this morning, and that you were not able to finish your

task. How did it happen that you were so annoyed, and who was the cause of it?" "Who was the cause of it?" replied the King, looking kindly towards the adjutant, "von L. can inform you, and also what was the result, for he had to bear the first fruits of my displeasure." "From that time forward," said the adjutant, "the King treated me with increasing and unvarying kindness."

Fatigued, and often irritated by the business of the day, the King would withdraw, with yearning affection, to the Peacock Island, to spend the afternoon and evening in the circle of his family in undisturbed tranquillity. As soon as he crossed the ferry, he used to throw open his military coat, as if to lighten his bosom by obtaining freer respiration; when landed, he paced slowly, with his hands crossed behind him, towards his dressing-room, where he re-dressed; and then his countenance assumed an air of perfect tranquillity. After passing several hours in his cabinet, reading documents prepared for his inspection, and making marginal notes with his pencil (the remarks generally containing the heads of the answers to be given), he went into the open air; and then one must have seen him to know how happy even a King oppressed with State affairs may be if his heart be pure and his mind elevated. He paced the island in its breadth and length, generally with a book in his hand, reading, contemplating the landscape, leaning against a tree, or sitting on a

rustic seat, conversing with the shepherd, or amusing himself with the passing children. Here he passed many happy years with his beautiful and amiable consort, experiencing all the joys of a husband and father. Those who have been eye-witnesses of the freshness of feeling and harmony of soul that appeared in the whole conduct of the illustrious and youthful pair, speak of them with rapture; and numerous anecdotes are told of that period, of which the following is one:—

One fine day, in the summer of 1799, two English gentlemen, on their travels, rowed to the Peacock Island, unaware that the royal family were staying there, and consequently ignorant of the interdiction. They had landed at a point of the island some distance from the ferry, and were strolling about, when the then Court Chamberlain, von Massow, saw them, and they were desired to quit the island instanter by the same way they came. They, however, deviated from the direct path to the boat, and were met by a gentleman and lady unattended, so simple in their dress and deportment, that the strangers had no idea who they were.

When they met, the unknown gentleman said, "How do you like the island?" Expressing themselves in rapture as to its position and embellishments; the unknown lady, with much affability invited the strangers to accompany them, as they

could point out all that was remarkable. "We should be delighted," replied the Englishmen; had not the Marshal peremptorily ordered us to quit the island—the King and Queen being here." "Matters are not quite so formidable," said the lady; "come with us; we will undertake to excuse you with M. von Massow, who is our intimate friend."

An animated conversation ensued, in which the lady spoke enthusiastically of England, and seemed to enjoy the free and critical remarks made by the Englishmen in reply; but great was their astonishment on approaching the chateau, to see the Chamberlain advancing to announce breakfast. Aware now, that they had been in company with the King and Queen, they would have apologized; but the condescension of the Queen calmed their apprehensions of having been too familiar; and what little fear remained wholly banished, on the King saying: "Enter, gentlemen! you'll take breakfast with us? After such a charming stroll, methinks some refreshment will be desirable."

On the 14th of August, 1800, the King set off to review the troops in Silesia, and the Queen accompanied him, for she delighted in travelling. In tranquil scenery, she had ever been accustomed to give herself up to the enthusiasm of her character, for her sources of rapture were so pure, that in the noblest works of creation she found a thousand objects of delight.

All Creation was to her a wondrous mighty temple for the worship of the Creator. The rising and setting of the gorgeous sun, the pure calm light of the silver moon, the glorious spangled firmament on a starlight night, were to her tenfold more delicious in those pastoral districts, where the shepherd watched his flock, the peasant tilled his ground, contented and happy in the occupation to which he was born, and where the clear transparent atmosphere permitted the eye to range to the utmost limits of a wide expanse, bounded only by the mountain chain in the far distance. In such places, the Queen was enchanted to take her frugal meal under the shady forest trees, and her light heart bounded in innocent glee whilst the preparations were being made for it. The King, who always left arrangements to her, because she had the happy art of disposing everything in the best possible manner, would remain quietly looking on with his friend Köckeritz, and was happy in the happiness of his Louisa. Those who were witnesses of these rural pleasures were wont to remark his cheerfulness, for the King sometimes exhibited much buoyancy of spirits, and under happy circumstances an inclination for pleasantry; this was generally with the lively and graceful Queen; but her happy repartees, and witty sallies, which might be justly called "the play of ideas," always gave her the pre-eminence.

When the acclamations of the throngs attending their entrance to the little towns and villages,

were most vociferous, the King would greet his people with a serious, benevolent countenance; but, tired at last, would sit back quietly in the carriage, and say, "Now, Louisa, you must salute them for me, and you can do it better than I; but, how you can hold out so long, I cannot think." She would reply, "Only look at the good, simple people with their eyes full of honest affection." Her heart was too much occupied with emotions of gratitude on these occasions to feel fatigue!" In this tour the Queen learnt the characteristics of the Silesians more intimately, and also visited the most remarkable and interesting objects of Silesia. She was charmed with the views which this mountainous district afforded; from the summit of every hill nature presented a different aspect. She was enchanted with the extensive prospect from the Riesen-Koppe, which she ascended, and remained very long on its summit, in silent admiration and delight at the wonders of creation.

On the 16th of August, the old castle on the Kynast was illuminated, which seen from Hirschberg presented a beautiful object. On the same evening there was a ball given at the Assembly Room at the Wells, which the Queen opened with the Count von Schafgotsch. On the following morning the Kynast was ascended, and the interior of the ruins examined. On the 18th, their Majesties visited the Schnee-Koppe, the Queen in a light carriage, the King on horseback. Indescribable was the burst of enthusiasm (the

people being allowed to accompany her) when she reached the highest point, which can only be gained on foot. The views of Bohemia and the Hirschberger valley beneath were exquisite, for the day was remarkably clear. On the Bohemian side, the banners of the Count von Schafgotsch (of Bohemian lineage), and the Count Morzin, whose possessions bordered on the Silesian frontier, were planted on the adjacent mountains, and three rounds of cannon greeted their Majesties on their arrival.

This delightful excursion has been thus described by an eye-witness:—

"The Queen performed part of the journey on horseback in the Amazonian costume, and she guided her horse with a light but firm hand up the steep ascent, with those buoyant spirits she ever exhibited in the pure air of mountainous districts. The King, who was desirous she should catch no glimpse of the prospect before she reached the summit, rode close to her, in order to intercept her view. In jest, she frequently attempted to baffle him by sly glances directed backwards or forwards, saying archly, 'I must look at you occasionally.'

"The last part of the ascent was obliged to be performed on foot. It is the highest summit in Germany, being four thousand nine hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea. The eyes of the multitude, who were assembled from all the adjacent country, were earnestly directed towards the King and Queen, as he, upon reaching the most elevated

point, uncovered his head with a feeling of profound religious veneration, and the Queen, with folded hands, as in prayer, stood silently by his side. The effect of this solemn, though silent invocation to the Almighty was perceptible in the awe that pervaded the throng around, an offering of prayer and praise well befitting the majesty of the surrounding objects of nature. This silent expression of devotion to the Most High had such an effect on the mind of the Queen, that she said afterwards:

"'This moment was one of the most blessed and solemn of my life. It seemed to me as if I were elevated above this earth, and was nearer to my God.'

"After this first pause of devotion there arose shouts of loyalty that were only drowned by the thundering of the cannon on the adjacent heights, repeated by an echo which continued the sound until it gradually died away in the far distance. The Queen said there was too much for the heart to bear at once. On returning, her carriage was nearly upset, and she escaped with great danger. The adjutant was angry; but the Queen, on the contrary, gave a larger donation than usual to recompense the postillion for his terror."

On the 19th, their Majesties proceeded towards Waldenburg, to the entrance of the mining works, called the Foxe's Hole, which can only be entered by boats. At the mouth of the cavern, they paused to examine the chasm through

which the stream issues, and then both the Sovereigns entered the boat which was to convey them in their subterranean expedition. The mine was lit up at the distance of every ten fathoms by wax-lights fixed in chasms of the mine. About seventy fathoms from the mouth of the cavern mountain music was heard proceeding from a boat stationed for the purpose, and a song for the occasion was sung to the air of the lay of "Reichardschen," "Welcome, bright cheerful day."

At a little distance from the head of the mine, there was a transparent inscription with these words: "Who is the guardian spirit of these shades?" Through the seven different levels of the mines, the royal pair proceeded to the coal pits, and inspected the machinery for drawing up the coals, which was put in motion by horses. The singularity of the expedition, the wild groups of miners, the subterranean excursion, in miners' dresses and hats that had been prepared for them, made a deep impression on the Queen's imagination which she long vividly retained. The effect produced by the Queen's urbanity and gentleness, and the sympathy she evinced by her condescending questions left an impression on the poor peasantry that true benevolence alone could have inspired.*

* After a lapse of twenty-one years, when Prince Radzivill made a similar excursion, he asked, if any of the miners who were present had witnessed the royal visit on the 19th of

On the same day their Majesties proceeded to Fürstenstein, where the Count von Hochberg had caused a gothic building to be erected on the site of the ruins of Vorstinburg. This was formerly a fortress of the middle ages, but for some hundred years past had presented only the vestiges of the times of chivalry. The new building was erected with great taste, in the style of the old

August, 1800. An honest old miner replied in his straightforward homely dialect, "Yes, your highness, above half of us are alive had that honour; three of us are with you now. I sat at the rudder, and I could see the Queen's sweet face well by the light of the lamps. In all my life I never saw such a face. She looked grand, as a Queen should look; but she was gentle as a child, and had the sweetest smile I ever saw, just for all the world like my dead blessed mother. As the psalm began, 'Praise the Lord, the mighty King of all the earth,' the Queen took the King's hand, and said softly, 'My favourite psalm: this is heavenly,' and then turning to me, said, 'More slowly, my good steersman.' The King and Queen made us all presents, but she gave me with her own hand a little paper with two new Holland ducats, and I gave them to my wife, and she wears them for a necklace when she goes to church, or to take the sacrament, for what *she* touched was holy. Ah, my God! that was a woman, indeed. Why did the good God take her away from us so soon? She did everything kindly, and loved us all. She took away her mining dress to remind her of us, as she told us."

As he said this the tears rolled down his aged cheeks, and stood in the eyes of the others who had been present on the occasion of the Queen's visit.

castle, and formed a picturesque and knightly residence. Tilting-yard, moat, drawbridge, portcullis, all was in harmony with the age it represented.

This, in conjunction with its picturesque situation in a wild, thickly wooded district, with sharp perpendicular rocks, which seemed to prevent all ingress to the fortress, carried the Queen's imagination back to the age of knightly prowess, when, as if by magic, so sudden was the effect, she turned a sharp angle in the ascent, and was surprised with a prospect of the richly cultivated and well-wooded valley beneath, which is remarkable for its luxuriance and beauty.

The Count of Hochberg had profited by these favourable circumstances to procure a new surprise for the Queen. On the watch-tower of the castle waved the banner of Hochberg, guarded by a warrior clothed in coat of mail: around the tilting yard and opposite the castle gate, many thousand spectators were assembled in the form of an amphitheatre. In the castle were seen knights, heralds, and squires. As the trumpeters on the watch-tower announced the arrival of strangers, an alarm was sounded, and after the royal pair had ascended to a balcony erected opposite the castle gate, the drawbridge was lowered, and the heralds, accompanied by the trumpeters, rode out of the castle to inquire who the newly arrived strangers were. After it was announced that it was their Majesties of Prussia, the standard-bearer,

accompanied by the knights, advanced to the barriers in front of the balcony, and, after a short speech in the true spirit of chivalry, requested their Majesties' permission to prove the joy and devotion of their nobles on so singular and happy an occasion, by a tournament. Permission being obtained, the troop of knights commenced the solemn preparations, and preceded by the standard-bearers, filed in succession before their Majesties; and when the banners, according to ancient ceremony, were planted before the royal pair, tilting matches, according to the usages of the middle ages commenced, and were conducted with great order and ability. From the hand of the beautiful and graceful Queen, the victors received their knightly rewards, which were two gold medallions representing the busts of the royal couple, suspended by chains of gold, also two similar medallions in silver attached by ribbons.

The knights who obtained the prizes were the Knights Eyettritz of the Black Forest, called the Schwartzwalder, Ritter Malzan of Lisner, Ritter Jochirsky of Domanger, and Ritter Jemsky of Ottendorffer, so called after the names of their estates. Most gracefully did the young Queen invest the kneeling courtiers with their honourable badges of victory, addressing her thanks to them for their loyal services as she placed the medallions around their necks. A solemn silence prevailed during this interesting ceremony, which presented a lively picture of bygone

days, and the habits and exercises of our predecessors.

After the solemn retreat of the knights, the royal pair were conducted, preceded by banners, to the castle, where the assembled knights received them on the bridge, forming an avenue with their elevated lances. The King and Queen remained until the approach of night. In the evening the five stories of the old castle, and the castle court were brilliantly illuminated, and presented a very picturesque and artist-like effect.

This festival concluded with a ball, in which the knights retained their costumes of the chivalric ages, and this *fête* most assuredly was distinguished as being one of the most tasteful and intellectual in its character of any *fête* in modern times. The window in the castle, where the Queen stood gazing on the prospect, is still called "Louisa's View."

On the 9th of September, after their Majesties had visited many other places in the provinces, and the King had inspected his troops in various places, the royal pair arrived in health and safety at Charlottenburg.

A great portion of the three preceding years, the Queen, to gratify the wishes of her people, had spent in various journeys through the provinces in which she had won the universal esteem and affection of the nation, by her judicious efforts in promoting their

real interests and happiness. The year 1801 she spent more in accordance with her natural inclinations, in the bosom of her family, and in the enjoyment of those tranquil pursuits in which her heart was engaged. The pomp and parade on her public entrance to the various towns, where her presence was the signal for general festivity during her stay, was willingly relinquished for the unbroken serenity of domestic life. Happy in the love of her affectionate husband; surrounded by her promising little family, whose rising talents equalled their external advantages; cherished by a circle of noble relatives, and esteemed and beloved by an upright nation, she had leisure to indulge her taste for simple pleasures.

In 1801, the Queen made only one short tour, accompanying the King at the latter end of May to review the troops at Magdeburg. The Countess von Berg thus speaks of this year: "The King and Queen resided with their children, and a small circle of their immediate Court, the greater part of this year at Potsdam, Paretz, and Charlottenburg. Here the Queen's whole existence was devoted to the first and holiest duties of her sex, and she fulfilled her vocation of wife and mother with her own peculiar truthfulness and grace. But not only to her heart was this calm retirement beneficial, her mind also ripened and expanded during these intervals of permitted leisure."

She loved reading; and in the words of a lady who had facilities for observation, which are almost

literally translated here, will be found some account of her studies: "Herder, in whose mind the doctrines of Plato and Christ were at the same time reflected and illustrated, especially attracted her youthful mind. His fugitive pieces, his letters on the culture of humanity, his Terpsichore, and his Adrastea were her companions in all her journeys. Goethe, the perfect connoisseur in art, the elaborate critic in literature, whose antique freshness of mind addressed itself peculiarly to hers, because she also possessed that quality in an eminent degree, excited her intense admiration. Schiller, also, who has represented in a dramatic form the profoundest depths of the human heart, and by the power of his rich and exquisitely sentimental temperament, has addressed us in strains of the sublimest moral philosophy, could not fail to make a deep impression on such a mind. She read his history of the Low Countries, and of the Thirty Years' War with great attention, for the study of history had already attracted her penetrating and reflecting mind. There was little unknown to the Queen in the department of polite literature; and she had a singular and wonderful power of appropriating and retaining whatever she heard or read worthy of attention; and by a peculiar manner of her own, in adapting conversation or reading, she literally transmuted them.

"Nevertheless, the Queen had not much leisure for reading, for her time was engrossed with the various duties of her eminent station; but of what she did

read, not a single passage of signification was lost. All superficial knowledge the Queen held in light estimation, for it could not escape her clear perception, that the well-grounded information of women directed to a legitimate object, would elevate and adorn their characters in every relation of wife, mother, and citizen. Thus the showy and fashionable system of education which prevailed at that period, and which degenerated from the true principles for the cultivation of the female mind, by producing only conceit, and a species of shallow wit, was especially distasteful to her."

What Goethe has said in his "Tasso," through the medium of the Princess Leonora, was thought so applicable to the Queen, that we would refer our readers to the dialogue between the Princess Leonora and Leonora Sanvitale, in the first scene of the first act. A translation of the passage (which has lately been published by Miss Sedgwick) may be acceptable:—

"What nature and what chance bestowed,
I ne'er esteemed as property or rank.
I find with pleasure when the wise converse,
That I can understand whate'er they say;
Whether they judge a man of bygone times,
And weigh his actions, or of science treat,
Which when extended and applied to life,
At once exalts and benefits mankind,
Where'er the converse of such men may lead,
I follow willingly, because with ease.
Well pleased the strife of argument I hear,

When eloquence with graceful ease inspires
Delight or terror in the human breast;
And gladly listen when the man of thought
Treats of ambition, or the thirst for fame,
Seeking with subtle wisdom and fine tact
Not to perplex and dazzle, but instruct."

The year 1801 was the jubilee of the great epoch in the annals of the house of Brandenburg, which raised the Elector Frederick I. to the rank of a King. The day of his coronation, the 18th of January, was celebrated not only by the Court, but throughout all the Prussian States, in a manner suitable to the importance of the event.

Amongst the many royal visitors at the Court of Berlin, the Queen experienced the greatest pleasure in receiving the Hereditary Prince and Princess of Mecklenburg Schwerin. The latter was a Russian Princess, the Grand Duchess Helena, daughter of the Emperor Paul, who, on her way to St. Petersburg in January, and on her return in the month of October of the same year, spent some time in Berlin. In May, the Queen received, by means of the Russian Ambassador at the Court of Berlin, the Baron von Kindener, the valuable insignia of the grand cross of the order of St. Catherine (set in diamonds of the finest quality), in the name of the widowed Empress of Russia.

On the 29th of June, 1801, the beloved "Mother of the Country" received an additional claimant on her maternal cares in the birth of her third son, who

received at the baptismal font the name of "Frederick Charles Alexander."

The citizens of the Cologne suburb at Berlin had received a banner from the first Queen of Prussia, Sophia Charlotte, when they went to meet their King, Frederick I., on his return from his coronation at Königsberg. After having been used by their company during a hundred years, they had placed it in the Church of St. Sebastian on the 13th of August, 1801. The Queen, with her usual interest in all that affected her people, thought it would gratify them if she replaced it by a new one. Accordingly, on the 26th of April, 1802, she presented one to the president of that town, requesting him to give it to the corporation in her name. In accepting this valued gift, the president signified that the King had permitted the devoted inhabitants of the Cologne suburb, at their express desire, to name the town the Louisa Stadt, as a memorial of their love and devotion to their excellent Queen.

At the end of May, 1802, the King set off to review the troops at Stuttgard, in Pomerania, and at Königsberg, in Prussia. The Queen accompanied him in these journeys. The associated nobles of the province of Pomerania had caused two saloons to be erected in the public gardens for the reception of their Majesties, which were most tastefully ornamented. The decorations had all been prepared in Berlin, and here the royal pair were formally received by the associated nobles. They also honoured the

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ball and banquet, in the same place, with their presence. In the evening the gardens were illuminated, and their Majesties did not take their departure before midnight. On the following evening a great portion of the assembly were collected in the same saloons, and were recounting the pleasures of the preceding day, which had left such delightful recollections, especially of the kindness and condescension of their Majesties, when they were surprised by a visit from their beloved Sovereigns, who remained with them thus graciously and unexpectedly until ten at night, and then both King and Queen returned on foot, with the evident intention of gratifying their loyal and devoted subjects in Pomerania by this confidence in their affectionate fidelity.

On the 30th of May, 1802, the royal pair entered Graudenz. The curiosity was so great to behold the Queen, who had never been there, that aged men and women, with infant children, were mingled in the throng which surrounded her carriage. The Queen, to gratify the immense concourse without danger to themselves, repaired immediately to an open window, and later in the day, she again appeared to the expecting throng. Whilst thus indulging the wishes of her people, she observed a woman amongst the crowd, who was obliged to hold her infant above her head in order to preserve it from injury. The Queen addressed her with the greatest condescension, and interested herself

in this feeling of maternal anxiety to protect her child, in a way that filled all present with the liveliest emotion. She caused an old man, whose outward appearance betrayed his extreme poverty, to receive some pecuniary assistance; and also requested some refreshment might be taken to the troops under arms. These proofs of considerate kindness were duly estimated.

On the 4th of June the Queen arrived in Königsberg, and alighted at the palace. The King, however, selected the former court-house, in Kalthof, for his residence during his stay, as it was more commodious for him to be near the place of exercise of the troops. Again the loyal inhabitants of Königsberg testified their joy in the presence of their beloved Queen by rejoicings of various kinds, amongst which, an excursion had been arranged for her on the River Pregel, as far as the country palace of Holstein, situate about a mile from the town. The most excellent arrangements had been made for this excursion: the joyful acclamations of the spectators, who lined the river on both sides; the flags displayed by all the vessels; the thunder of the cannon; the sprightly Turkish music, which proceeded from the boats accompanying the one in which their Majesties were seated; all contributed to produce a beautiful and animated scene.

On the 7th of June their Majesties proceeded by the Strand, called the Electoral Sands, to Memel. As they were entering the vessel, tastefully decorated

for the occasion, which was to convey them across the harbour, a boat containing twelve young girls of Lithuania, dressed in its picturesque costume, approached the royal vessel, and commenced singing a joyous air of welcome, and then presented various specimens of Lithuanian manufacture, which were received with thanks by the Queen, who graciously accepted the basket they presented to her. The Queen manifested her good-will to the city in various ways, but especially by the interest she displayed in the ingenious workmanship of the articles which the Lithuanian girls presented to her; she had acquired sufficient knowledge of the Lithuanian language to express her wish that the national costume should not be altered by degrees, until at last it should be entirely discontinued.

As the Lithuanian women perceived that the Queen interested herself so warmly for them, they presented themselves on horseback before her. The women of the noble and lower classes ride alike, without exception, as men, and wear a white woollen garment trimmed at the edge with a broad border; this is worn as a mantle, hanging from the left shoulder and fastened on the right by a large round metal buckle. Their general appearance was most singular to an eye unaccustomed to such an exhibition. The Queen had the happy art of identifying herself with the national habits of her people; and as she was above all affectation, she was never shocked at national customs, which were in

themselves innocent, however peculiar they might appear. The natural consequence of this amiable disposition was the intense affection she inspired amongst the peasantry throughout the province.

Those who were privileged to call themselves her friends loved her most tenderly. The Princess Helena, sister to the Emperor Alexander of Russia, was of this number. It was a friendship that terminated only with the existence of this charming Princess, who was married to the Hereditary Prince of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and thus through her perhaps was the good understanding commenced, which has ever since existed between the Russian and Prussian Courts.

On the 10th of July, 1802, the Emperor Alexander availed himself of their vicinity to his dominions, and arrived in Memel, in order to become personally acquainted with their Majesties. The Sovereigns dined together always in public, and every one who chose was allowed free entrance, not even the commonest peasant was denied admission. Peasant girls, in the affectionate loyalty of their hearts, brought offerings of their rustic labours as presents to the Queen; and on these occasions the kind and condescending "Mother of the Country" frequently caused cakes and wine to be given them, to their great delight at thus partaking in their Sovereign's hospitality.

On the 12th the associated ship-owners and mer-

chants gave a ball, which the Emperor Alexander opened with the Queen of Prussia.

On the 8th, the Emperor of Russia returned to his own dominions, and on the same day the King and Queen also departed by way of Rustenburg.

The citizens of Memel had requested the Sovereigns, before their departure, to allow the streets in which the Emperor and the Queen had resided, to be called the Kaiser Strasse (the Emperor's street), and the Louisen Strasse (Louisa street), which request was most willingly acceded to by the King, who was always gratified by marks of respect for the Queen. In Tilsit the Sovereigns were received with offerings of the produce of Lithuanian industry, and with national melodies sung by the people.

At the dinner table the Queen caused some Lithuanian women to appear in the bridal costume of the country. These dresses she requested them to accept as remembrances of her, assuring them that she should never forget their devoted attachment. By these little traits of consideration for the feelings of her subjects, by whom a few kind words were esteemed far above pecuniary reward, she became a species of idol amongst her provincial subjects, and she was looked upon as much in the light of a sympathising friend as an august sovereign.

From the 22nd to the 26th, their Majesties remained in Warsaw, whence they proceeded to Kalisch and Posen, and after a short sojourn there,

returned by way of Meseritz to Berlin. The sensations she inspired during this journey were thus expressed by a contemporary:—

"The Queen appeared like a gentle guardian angel. Her mere glance had taught us to love her, before experience had proved to us the perfection of her moral dignity; but this was soon displayed in all its radiant brightness. By the prominent position in which it had pleased Providence to place her she was entitled to our homage; but it was her personal worth that commanded our respect. Her charms, though so remarkable, were but secondary to her exalted virtues."

On the 22nd of February, 1803, the royal family was again increased by the birth of the fourth daughter and seventh child which had blessed the happy union of their Majesties. This Princess was baptized by the name of Frederica Wilhelmina Alexandria Maria Helena.

To manifest the rejoicings of the nation for the Queen's safe delivery, the nobles gave a sumptuous masked ball in the new concert room of the national theatre, and Prince Louis of Prussia, and Prince Radzivill were foremost on the list, as being nearly connected with the beloved Sovereign.

In the autumn of this year, 1803, the celebrated poet, Gottlob Hiller, known so well to the literary part of Germany, on account of his remarkable information, being the son of a common carter of ore in the Saxon mining district, came to

Berlin, where he excited the especial attention of Prince Radzivill, at whose wish he was presented to the King and Queen. As he entered the presence-chamber the usual thoughtful kindness of her Majesty was displayed by her advancing to meet him; and with the greatest affability she addressed him on topics he was well acquainted with, and continued to converse a short time with him apart, in order to inspire him with courage and banish his natural timidity. Both the King and Queen afterwards conversed most graciously and condescendingly with him for some time.

On the following morning Hiller received, in the name of their Majesties, ten gold Fredericks: but the beneficent patroness of all kinds of talent had, with the delicacy she always displayed by entering into the tastes and feelings of others, added two rings, which she destined for the ceremony of his marriage. Hiller encased these rings in fourfold envelopes, and wrote upon them some verses.

The Queen's lively disposition was ever a source of great delight to the King, who, although grave in outward demeanour, had a fund of satirical humour at command when he chose to display it: the laconic speeches he was wont to use, were frequently in themselves epigrams. This disposition for satire may reconcile the apparent contradiction of the King's inclination for grave and retired pursuits, and the continual recurrence of seemingly frivolous

exhibitions, which, by command of the royal household, took place either in the palace, or in the presence of their Majesties and the royal children. There was almost daily some new or strange exhibition discussed at table, for the King took great interest in what occurred in the capital, and every thing was accurately reported to him. Not only did the buoyant spirits of the Queen embellish these topics of conversation, but the King also was at home on the subject of the drama, for which he ever displayed a decided partiality. The Court was not only enlivened by theatrical representations, concerts, and balls, but every extraordinary exhibition was patronized by it. Conjurors, ventriloquists, rope-dancers, dwarfs, giants; in fact, every thing that was in itself a burlesque was equally relished by the sedate and laconic King, as by the joyous and open-hearted Queen. A smile of irony played around the mouth of the King whilst he carried out the analogy of these trivial objects with the great drama of life.

Punctuality has been called the politeness of royalty, and in this respect the Queen was anxious to conform to the rigid punctuality the King so scrupulously observed. She was a pattern of order and regularity which might well be imitated by ladies of inferior rank. This species of harmonious arrangement in the royal household contributed not a little to the enjoyment of the day, for these apparently trifling observances are productive of far greater effects than is generally imagined. How

often is the pleasure of the whole day marred by the want of punctuality of some one individual. The Queen was ever ready to contribute her share of amusement, and humoured the little peculiarities of the King most cheerfully. He was sensible of this, and did not spare himself, at times, in his ironical expressions; for instance, he was one day sitting to the Inspector of the royal galleries, the Privy Counsellor Ternite, for his portrait, who repeated the following conversation:

"When the King was seated, and I was about to commence, I observed that he had on a very old, worn-out coat of ordinary cloth, and I requested his Majesty to order his servant to put out a better and more suitable uniform for the next sitting. The King replied, 'I don't know, Ternite, what you want. What has my coat done to offend you? It is a very good coat yet, and an especial favourite. My good old deceased Henry has taken great care of that coat. Hold it in particular respect, for, after some years, when it *is* worn out, (here he smiled ironically) I shall send it to you for a remembrance of me. What do you think of it? But you would not wear it, I know. It is different in my case. You can order yourself a new coat, and wear it as soon as you have got the money to pay for it, without asking leave of any body to do as you like; but I cannot. If I do not spare the groschen, my subjects will have no dollars.'"

This was said partly in jest, but the King carried out the principle in earnest, for wherever there was

wilful waste he was angry, and, even when useless expenditure occurred, he discouraged it by every means in his power; he also disliked to see things spoiled to no purpose. Once in coming from parade he was vexed to see the feather of his hat completely soaked through by the rain. The attendant remarked: "It will *only* cost sixteen groschen to get it put right again." "*Only!*" said the King; "if we say it *only* costs so much for every thing we may be inclined to buy, we may spend every thing in that way. Do you know that for sixteen groschen thrown away as this is, a poor hungry family might have a meal to eat?"

In every thing the same simple tastes, and the same interest for every class of their subjects animated the royal pair, and this kindness was the foundation of their popularity.

Although the King did not always preserve the same equanimity of temper as the Queen ever displayed, he was always careful to remove a painful impression. An instance may be cited here: on his journeys to Breslau, to inspect the troops, he was accustomed to stop at a pretty, retired cottage between Grüneberg and Krossen, and take his breakfast under the shade of a fine old oak. The breakfast consisted of new-laid eggs, new milk, fresh butter, and home-baked bread. This was furnished by the peasant; but on one occasion the bread was sour and not eatable.

The attendant was careful on the next occasion

to remedy this want, and procured some fine white bread for the journey, which he laid on the table as usual under the oak. This time, however, the peasant's loaf was very good, and the King pushed the white bread from him impatiently with these words:

"Why this superfluity? I do not like it; you know this and still you persist in it. In the country one should live like the country people. The peasant's feelings should be respected, and, therefore, I like to eat what they eat. To disparage gives pain. This must not happen again."

The servant, who had hoped to give satisfaction, said nothing at the time; but afterwards explained to the Adjutant-General von Witzleben why he had brought the white bread, and the General repeated it to the King as they went forward in the carriage. When the same attendant was waiting at dinner, the King, anxious to repair the pain he had given, which he always endeavoured to do as soon as possible, said, looking kindly on the servant, "This morning you did too much. Well meant.—Thanks; and this (handing him a gold watch as a present) is for a remembrance of this fine morning under the oak tree."

The royal table was served like that of any private gentleman, no article of expensive luxury appeared, because the Sovereign cared little for the pleasures of the table; it was, therefore, something uncommon for the King to ask a guest who was sitting

at the table one day, "How do you find the soup?" The guest replied, "I find it now as I always do when I have the honour of dining here, very good." "Do you not find anything remarkable in it?" "No, your Majesty." "What do you take those webs of thread for?" "For vermicelli, your Majesty—for very fine vermicelli paste!" "Charming," said the King, laughing heartily, "'paste.' I must tell you something about it. These are Chinese birds'-nests, which my sister, the Queen of the Netherlands, sent me as a present. Every nest costs a ducat (ten shillings). Miserable waste, to give so much for such a thing! But people have crotchets and birds'-nests in their heads sometimes. You are right; vermicelli does quite as well. The poor have not even the opportunity of tasting that."

These anecdotes of the coat, the feather, the bread, and the birds'-nests, all prove that the King was actuated by the principle of avoiding unnecessary expenditure on his own person, and that he believed it to be a duty in him to discourage prodigality.

Bishop Eylert says: "I had preached a sermon on the text of Christ's own words, 'Gather now the fragments together that nothing may be wasted;' and the King afterwards said, 'To-day you preached a sermon after my own heart. The secret of dollars lies in *groschen;* whoever would have the one must not despise the other. But one must always commence with oneself if we would be economical.'" Thus thought and acted the King, who indulged

himself so little, and did so much for others. By this strict economy he saved the Prussian States from utter ruin, when they were sorely burthened.

On one occasion, when there was a court held in Magdeburg, where the Queen frequently stayed for a short time with great pleasure, and those who were in the habit of coming to her receptions were personally known to her, it happened that a lady quite unknown was presented to her as the newly-married wife of the then Major von ——. She was the daughter of a highly respectable and very rich merchant of Magdeburg, whose origin was also from the same class. The Queen, ignorant of this circumstance, asked her with frank cordiality the not uncommon question in Germany, "Was sind sie für eine geborene?" literally, "What were you born?" but which means, in the sense intended in Germany, "Of what family are you?" Timid and confused in the presence of the Queen, and surrounded by the illustrious circle, to which she was wholly unaccustomed, the poor lady answered in a faltering tone, "Ah! your Majesty, I was born nothing." A smile of contempt from the surrounding ladies was the result of this answer. This the Queen passed over in silence, as if she had not perceived it; but as she heard a lady of illustrious descent, who was standing near her, utter this bitter sarcasm—"Also ein missgeburt!" (So, then, an abortion!) her pure and feeling heart was roused to indignation, and she could not pass it over in silence.

She raised her beautiful head (adorned with the regal diadem), as she was accustomed to do when excited, every lovely feature beaming with the elevation of her mind (although the serenity of her countenance was unruffled), and spoke thus in tones audible throughout the whole circle: "Ay, Madame Majorin (for in Germany the wives of officers and officials are addressed by the titles of their husbands), you have answered me with an innocent sarcasm. I confess that if by the established phrase, 'von Geburt sein,' (to be by birth) is understood the pre-eminence attendant on birth only, I have never been able to attach either a reasonable or moral signification to it; for most assuredly we are all, without exception, born equal. Certainly, it is of great importance in elevating our motives, and also in redoubling our exertions, to be of honourable descent, and that our ancestors should have distinguished themselves by virtue and merit; and who would not estimate and respect this distinction? But this, thank God, is to be found in all conditions; even the humblest classes have produced some of the greatest benefactors of the human race. External distinction of rank one can inherit, but that internal personal dignity, which is the true aim of life, must be obtained by each one for himself individually. I thank you, dear Madame Majorin, that you have given me this opportunity of expressing fully my thoughts on this not unimportant subject; and I wish you much happiness in your marriage,

the source of which can only be found in the heart."

Whilst the Queen spoke, she moved the little fan she generally bore in her right hand, and which she was in the habit of waving gently, with greater vivacity than usual, raising or sinking it according to the current of her thoughts and feelings, and, as in everything she did, some especial charm peculiar to herself was apparent; so this little fan had a magical effect, when the signal for dismissal was given by the enlightened Sovereign with a significant sign to the assembled ladies of Magdeburg. None had been offended; but the low-born felt as if newly-born; and all were placed by her, who stood on the highest pinnacle, in their proper and legitimate stations. "Oh! how beautiful, how glorious it is, when those whom God has placed in supreme power to rule over us, are also endowed with an equal degree of intelligence and philanthropy, and when they, by God's grace, bear the impress of his image."

Unusually clever in repartee, and peculiarly happy in turning an unfortunate expression into something significant or witty, she frequently averted the shame and confusion which would otherwise have been felt by the unlucky individual. Ridicule, especially that species of derision which is displeasing to a sensitive mind, by its tendency to disparage a worthy object, she held in abhorrence, and she always

came forward to avert or repair its effects, when it occurred in her presence.

The following anecdote, related by the clergyman of the place where it occurred, is an example of her sweet disposition in this respect:—

"The Queen delighted in the adjacent forest called the 'Freienwald,' and frequently remained long under the shade of its beautiful oaks and beeches, when drinking the waters of this bathing-place. One day having taken some remarkably good coffee after dinner, she returned the cup to the attendant domestic who was standing behind her, with this remark, 'One drinks better coffee nowhere than in Freienwald.' 'True, your Majesty,' replied the man, 'it is the moral water that makes it so good.' A peal of laughter rang through the saloon, and the poor man, ashamed and perplexed as to the cause, was in the greatest confusion. The Queen smiled also, but took her cue instantly; 'I believe,' said she, 'we have not thoroughly understood our good Henry (who was an old and upright servant, and greatly valued both by the King and Queen on account of his fidelity); it appears to me as if he meant to inculcate a moral truth. Those who would use these mineral waters with beneficial effect must, as in all bathing-places where health is the object, live simply, moderately, and quietly, so that these waters are at the same time both moral and mineral waters. My good Henry, I beg for a glass of this moral mineral water.' She then turned to the clergyman of the place, the Rev.

—— Heyne, and said, 'Is it not so, Reverend Sir? Do you not take it in this manner also?' The old servant could now raise his head once more, and he said, modestly and gratefully, 'Nobody can understand me so well as our good Queen.'"

At a brilliant military festival, which was celebrated in the church more especially belonging to the Court, called the Garrison Church, at which the King, Queen, and State Ministers were present, a very respectable-looking and well-behaved woman arrived too late to get any place in the already overflowing church. Totally unacquainted with the locality, she happened to fall into the line which led directly to the Queen's tribune, and without being aware to whom it was appropriated, she opened the door. Confused by the brilliant retinue which she saw already engaged in their devotions, she would have retired, but a sign from a lady of the Court, true to her character of gentleness and humility, directed her to take a seat in the back row of the tribune. She did so; and now she committed an unpardonable breach of etiquette in the estimation of the ceremonious *Oberhofmeisterin*, who, as soon as the Queen had left the tribune, came forward with a storm of anger against the woman, for having dared to intrude herself into the place appropriated to her Majesty, and thereby insulting the dignity of the Queen. Vain were all the assurances that it was done without premeditation; no excuses availed: and although she named her husband's position as a

respectable burgher of Potsdam, she was treated as if she had been guilty of a high crime, or misdemeanour against the dignity of royalty. Bishop Eylert, says: "In tears the poor woman came to me inconsolable at the idea that she could be supposed capable of being wanting in respect to the Queen, whom she regarded with the most profound veneration. Whilst she was weeping most bitterly, there came a gentleman of the Court, Count von Brühl, to tell me that the Queen desired to speak to me, if possible, immediately. As I entered the presence-chamber the Queen advanced to meet me with hurried steps, saying, in a state of agitation, 'But tell me, for heaven's sake, what has happened in the church. I have just heard, with great vexation, that a worthy woman, the wife of one of the citizens of Potsdam has been harshly treated by the master of the ceremonials. Why, can it be that it is because she sat in a place in my tribune during divine service? It is well known what the King's and my opinions are upon the ceremonies of court etiquette. They cannot be entirely laid aside; but surely some distinction can be drawn, and that most assuredly in a church in the service of the Most High. I am inconsolable until I have exculpated her. I beg you to put this matter right. Come and dine with us to-day, at the Peacock Island, and bring me the assurance that the good woman is at ease again; and to-morrow morning bring her to me, for I shall be glad to know her personally.'"

All severity was repugnant to her; for her lively powers of sympathy were such, that she felt another's sufferings as her own. To use the words of her chamberlain, the Baron von Schilder, an excellent man, who remained faithful to his duties through prosperity and adversity, and in his quality of chamberlain was the Queen's counsellor and assistant in works of charity to the end of her life. "She was unable to endure the idea of suffering without a sensation of pain, and an expression of melancholy then shadowed her countenance as a passing cloud dims the soft light of the bright moon." "There was scarcely a day in which she did not receive petitions from far and near; and there was something in her nature that impelled her to relieve and assist the distressed." Her private secretary, the cabinet counsellor, von Niethe, says, "She generally answered petitions herself, and her benefactions were always accompanied by a few kind words." The words of the Holy Scripture, "God loveth a cheerful giver," were truly applicable to her. Her manner of giving was so affectionately sympathising, that none could feel the humiliation of receiving money from her. She was particularly compassionate to poor neglected children, and to poor needy women in their confinement. She could not rest until she knew they were attended to properly.

Bishop Eylert says: "During the time of her residence in Potsdam she frequently sent me petitions

from the numerous applicants who applied to her, for me to consider, and I was so happy as to be the means of frequently carrying out her intentions. She used to say, 'That by removing the pressing necessity of want, the means of activity and industry were afforded;' and with her truly feminine nature she would continue, 'Whether these poor people merit assistance or not we will not ask. Who is able to know or judge others.' The lines which separate merited or unmerited suffering are faintly drawn, and run easily into each other. 'How does God bestow his rich blessings on us? Is he not all compassion, long suffering, and mercy?'"

These pious sentiments, and her involuntary impulse to offer assistance went so far, that if she were standing at her window and saw an expression of pain or grief in some poor passer by, she could not resist inquiring the cause, and offering assistance.

On one occasion, whilst walking in the gardens near the palace at Potsdam, she saw a pale, exhausted-looking man sitting on a bench in the garden. As he was poorly clad, the Queen, in passing by, took him for a poor person; and she sent him by her footman four Fredericks d'or. He was, however, a respectable tradesman of Potsdam, who had been long ill, and was now sitting in the open air to recruit his strength with the refreshing breezes of the spring; he therefore declined the proffered gift, but most respectfully. In the mean time the Queen had passed on; but as soon as she was

told the state of the case she turned back to repair the error which she feared had wounded the invalid, and this she could not endure to think of. She addressed him kindly, and said, "Now, you must allow me to do something that will be serviceable to your health. You must come daily to the palace, and have some light and nourishing diet from the King's kitchen, which perhaps you cannot have so well made at home. The King loves his good citizens of Potsdam, and I participate with him in this, most cordially."

With grateful emotion the tradesman, whose name was Leeden, accepted the Queen's considerate kindness, and for many weeks afterwards he received something nourishing and likely to tempt the appetite of such a person from the royal kitchen.

To meet the continual applications for assistance which the Queen's benevolence created, the sum which she received every quarter from the King's coffers through the treasurer Wolker did not suffice, and she requested him to make her some advance. The treasurer, however, was a straightforward man, scrupulously accurate to the smallest point in his accounts. "Pardon me," said he, "every month my accounts must be exactly balanced, and if I were to forestal the payments, I should have a deficiency, and the King's Majesty would not permit this. Truly, your Majesty, this cannot be done; you give too much to the poor and it cannot go on so." The Queen gently replied, "My good

Wolker, I love my children, and the word *Landeskind* has a sweet sound to my ears; and the idea of being united with my best friend the *Landesvater*, as the *Landesmütter*, is a source of rapture to me. I cannot and will not cease to help all, whenever I can do so, who need my help." "Well then," said Wolker, "I must tell this to the King." "Do so, he will certainly not be angry." And he, the tender and happy husband was not angry, for he felt the same and did the same for his people, and soon afterwards the Queen found the drawer of her writing-desk again replenished. "What angel," said she to the King, "has filled that drawer again for me?" "The angels," replied the King, "are a legion; I know not how they may be called, and I know only one; but thou knowest the beautiful verse, 'He gives his favours to his favourites while sleeping.'"

When a firm, enduring friendship founded on principle and mutual good-will, continues unshaken throughout a whole existence, it is alike honourable to the individuals and to human nature; especially, when such an intimate confidence exists between royal personages and their true friends and advisers, such as the General von Köckeritz and the King. Death only put a period to their mutual good offices, and the King's regret for his faithful friend was shewn in every possible way. When he became dangerously ill, the King manifested the warmest attachment to him. In every change of his disorder, his Majesty not only repeatedly sent to inquire after

him, but also wrote him little consoling notes such as these:—

"I hear with sorrow that you are still suffering, and can get no sleep. Warm spring weather will, I hope, be the best remedy. I wish it may be so, from my heart."

Only those who are suffering from want of sleep, can tell the soothing effects of a few really kind words from those we value. Perhaps the very best means for securing some hours of tranquil repose for his friend was the sympathy thus expressed.

As the illness increased, and the invalid could no longer quit his couch, the King visited him continually, and was eager to enliven the spirits of the sufferer, who would often remain gazing on the King (whose hand he retained in his own for many minutes), with tears of grateful affection glistening in his eyes. Sometimes the King participated visibly in this emotion, and the friends felt the sacred character of their long and unvarying friendship. When the General died, and his nephew waited on his Majesty to restore the decorations and orders worn by his late uncle, the King was deeply affected; he held the orders for some time in his hand, and then said—"You have lost much, I much more; I did hope his life would have been spared longer, God has otherwise disposed of events. We must submit to strange faces. I dislike to see them about me," the King was wont to exclaim. He did, in fact, look with a certain degree of suspicion on strangers until they

had been proved: his nearest attendants had been tested; but when he had once become accustomed to them, he valued them not as mere servants, who were the instruments of his will only, but when they became old and infirm, he said—"They ought not to be cast away like the peel of a lemon, when all the goodness was extracted." This was repugnant to his Christian principles, as well as his natural inclination. The smallest service rendered to him was received with grateful manifestations. His private secretary Wolker, who had served him formerly for many years as *Kammerdiener*, was repeatedly visited by the King in his illness, and received many consolatory and friendly attentions.

Bishop Eylert says: "I was present at the death-bed of this faithful servant, and when the King entered, he took the hand of the dying man, and thanked him for the fidelity with which he had so long served him. He then took leave of him, saying to me—'It will be agreeable to me that you should remain with this good man to the end, and comfort him with the promises of the Holy Bible.' He then left the room with tears in his eyes. The successor of Wolker also received the same proofs of condescension and sympathy to the hour of his death."

In everything the King said or did, he was actuated by firm principle, based on the habits of reflection, which his silent nature conduced to promote. Yet he was never morose; his laconic speeches were

never rude, and he was, in his own interior, beloved rather than feared. In his conduct towards the Queen, he was unvarying in that sort of nameless attention which speaks to the heart without a word being uttered. It was affection manifested as much in what he did not do as in what he did; she was sensible of his esteem and love for her, and manifested her feelings of gratified affection in her own more demonstrative manner.

To shew the King's ideas of the duty of the matrimonial union, a little instance may be given, as related by Eylert. He says: "Summoned to attend a process, which had been instituted for a separation by a married couple closely associated with the Court, who had hitherto been esteemed a happy pair, the circumstance was mentioned in the presence of the Queen; she immediately expressed a wish that I would interfere, and, by means of religious considerations, and the representation of old associations and of past happiness, strive to reconcile the parties, and remove their bitter feelings of estrangement. When I brought the news to the Queen that I had succeeded, that the process was withdrawn, and that the union seemed now established on its former basis; the kind-hearted Queen manifested great pleasure, and fervently wished them renewed happiness. The King, who was present, shook his head, and said—'From such patched-up unions I expect but little; such flaws are not to be concealed. Blots like this will not be effaced; they will appear

through the thin surface. We must guard ourselves against the first breach, or otherwise we cannot keep up a pure, good understanding.' The Queen looked on him with delight as he spoke; he passed his hand caressingly over her forehead, and kissed her hand as he left the room. The Queen, with streaming eyes of joyful tears, exclaimed—'What a man! oh, what a man!'"

The Bishop continues: "As I was required by their Majesties to read to them a sermon, which I had preached in their presence from the text of the 16th and 17th verses of the first chapter of Ruth, which contains these words—'Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest I will go; where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried; nought but death shall part thee and me.' I took my text as an appropriate passage for the close union of a Christian marriage, in all its several duties and relations, and the subject had pleased their Majesties. I read the sermon to them one calm summer evening, under the shade of the oaks on the Peacock Island. The royal suite were present, and as I read, the Queen sat next to the King, in unrestrained freedom, with her hand in his, and the holy calm of devotion seemed to be respired by all around. The breath of life seemed to be exhaled in the pure atmosphere, and as the short discourse terminated, the hautboys of the

military band were heard executing the Psalm—'In all my actions I take counsel of the Lord.' There was a long and solemn pause, for we were all disposed to keep silence, being engaged in our own thoughts. The glow of evening shed a bright gleam through the grove. The full moon had already risen in the east; the mellow tones of the distant music echoed through the pure expanse in soft accordance with the stillness around us, which seemed inspired by the peace of God within our souls. It seemed to us as if this beautiful island were the temple of the living God. We did at length exclaim, 'Surely this is a holy spot; it seems, to-night, as if it were the vestibule of heaven.' The King was the first to move; he rose, and placing his hand on the Queen's shoulder, said softly, but audibly, whilst he gazed on her with extreme earnestness, as he was wont to do when thoughtful, 'It shall be so, dear Louisa; I and my house, we will serve the Lord.' In visible emotion, but in silence, he took up his camp-chair, and left us, to seek retirement, as he always did when any overwhelming feeling or powerful emotion agitated him. He went to a small thicket on the brink of the Havel, where he was hidden from our view, and where he was accustomed to meditate alone.

"The Queen, on the contrary, experienced a satisfaction in pouring out her full heart to some sympathising friend. To communicate her feelings was to her an absolute necessity. If she were in a peculiarly devout frame of mind, her usually

cheerful countenance was tempered with a solemn feeling of religion into that serene calmness which bespeaks peace. The soft, animating smile, which hovered over her intellectual countenance, gave place to the pious devotion so natural to her enthusiastic nature. Although her ordinary style of conversation partook of the flowery eloquence of a poetical imagination, the expression of her feelings and ideas was so true and so natural, that an indescribable charm pervaded the tone of her conversation. In her soul there was a rooted veneration for the sublime and holy, which assuredly is more frequently found associated with the resignation of self-sacrifice in the feminine than in the masculine bosom. There was nothing mystic, or variable in the Queen's sentiments of religion; her piety was visible in her actions, her faith was based on the immeasurable love of the Saviour towards his Christian Church, and her participation in the fulness of his love.

"Her love of truth was so great, that she seemed not only to feel what it really comprised in all its transparence and purity, but to those around her she seemed to be the embodied symbol of truth. It spoke in all her expressions; thus the warmth of her feelings was the natural effusion of her pious heart and the manifestation of that principle which governed her existence. Her expressions seemed to penetrate the souls of those she addressed, for her whole being was engrossed by the profound veneration she felt for the Most High. It was thus that

her countenance expressed in such moments a species of beatitude.

"It was natural to her to give vent to these feelings, and this evening she spoke unreservedly in the presence of Count Bruhl and myself, the rest of the party having dispersed. The conversation was naturally a dialogue; but the sentiments of the Queen being my principal object in noting down her remarks, her observations are given as a monologue; she exclaimed,

" 'How exquisitely beautiful is this serene summer evening, how calm, how reviving! The heart yields itself readily to its mild, sweet influence.

" 'This feeling of universal benevolence which it seems to communicate to us is in itself a feeling of religion. One cannot attain any pious aim without being inspired with this inward peace of mind, and feeling its hallowed effects.'

" 'As soon as we feel this holy calm in our own breasts it expels all other conflicting feelings which formerly disturbed the mind, and the tempestuous waves, which agitated our souls, become still and placid, and only serve to reflect on their clear and tranquil surface, that peace which reigns within.

" 'Look at this lovely scene around us; the forest trees reflected in the gentle stream of the Havel, tinged by the bright glow of evening, seem to me a prototype of this mental serenity.

" 'Peace of mind is assuredly the first and greatest

of all blessings; all other enjoyments fail when that is wanting.

"'Surrounded by all that was most brilliant on earth, I have often felt uneasy and in discord with myself, and often in the most simple positions, thrown back on myself, I have felt contented and happy. That this should be so in such continually varying positions is a clear proof to me that the feeling lies in the nature of men and things.

"'The serene enjoyment and mild influence of nature's blessings descend visibly from heaven, and seem to encircle the earth as a mother embraces her children. But man, a child of earth, and at the same time a child of heaven, can only receive this soul-inspiring peace, and all its harmonious attributes on earth from on high. Above the visible sun that gives us light and warmth, there is another spiritual and invisible source of life, in whose light and warmth our spiritual nature can only exist.

"'I can understand, that amidst the diversions and varying enjoyments of life, God and the Saviour may be forgotten, and that we may live without them; but I cannot imagine how it is possible to misconceive religion so much as to declare that the whole thing is only a beautiful phantasie which vanishes as soon as we think clearly and reflect profoundly, and that the enlightened need no religion, at least no revealed religion.

"'It is precisely when I think most seriously and most profoundly, as far as I am able to do so,

that I always come immediately to the limits which impose cessation of inquiry; and no firm foundation can I find but on faith alone.'

"'It is precisely when I feel myself best disposed, and all is clear and tranquil in my own mind, that I feel most what is yet wanting.

"'In the possession and enjoyment of the greatest blessings, one yearns still after happiness; and in this longing, a void is felt in the human heart which nothing earthly can fill. I then look upwards to heaven and sigh.

"'I love the ideal, and I live willingly in the realms of ideality. We create a world for ourselves such as we would have it; these are but dreams, and when one wakes, oh how different is every thing!'

"'And yet our moral feelings and conscience demand purity and perfection; we seek, and seek on, and we find it not; even in the very best we find spots and deficiencies that give us pain when we come to know them intimately.'

"'Therefore do I love the holy Saviour so inexpressibly; the highest and purest ideal is united in his life and actions. In veneration we worship him, and yet we feel at the same time attracted. His endless and self-sacrificing love, has a soft but wonderfully winning force.

"'Delbrück * is much prized by me, because he seeks to awaken and nourish this love of the Redeemer and his holy precepts, in the hearts of my children.

* Tutor to the Crown Prince.

"'To my venerable chaplain, the Prebendary Ribbeck, I am greatly indebted. His profundity, his perspicuity, and tranquillity give the edifying discourse I have with him a firm and fundamental principle. His pious warmth also is mild and gentle in its effects.

"'Hufeland * is a physician of soul as well as body to me. What a singularly valuable man! Every thing about him bears the highest impress. Firm and manly, at the same time simple and confiding as a child, his faith is natural to him. The King calls him an apostle.

"'I am very happy, and I am especially fortunate in my religious opinions and convictions being in perfect concord with the Christian belief of the King. Through him I have become better. I believe he is the best man and Christian on earth. Have you heard what he said to me when you finished your discourse on matrimonial and domestic happiness? He said in his own sincere manner, with heartfelt emotion, We will follow the good scriptural resolution. I and my house will serve the Lord. Where may he be, my best friend? Come both of you, we will go and seek him.

"These phrases," continued Bishop Eylert, "are, when written down, but mere dead characters, but to see her, to hear her speak with her enthusiastic tones, the mind, the soul that beamed from her counte-

* The Queen's Physician.

nance as she uttered these feelings of her inmost heart, made an impression that could never be forgotten, but which was totally indescribable."

The Queen was right in declaring that her religious feelings and opinions were in unison with those of the King, but they were differently manifested. In him it was the firm, deep-rooted principle of religion founded on its dogmas. His faith, founded on reasonable evidence, produced the same fruits as the Queen's reliance on the inward conviction of her soul. What was produced in him by judgment, was in her the effect of feeling: he reflected, she contemplated: but both were actuated by the true principle of shewing their faith in their actions.

The ingenuousness and cordiality of the Queen removed all constraint; and by her intuitive power of idealizing and refining common occurrences, she elevated them into subjects worthy of consideration, and made them subservient in leading the conversation to topics of higher import. She ever sought to excite the interest of those presented to her, and to arouse the slumbering powers of those around her; if she failed in this, she broke off the conversation as soon as she had, in a few gentle tones, said something agreeable to the individual. Every one quitted her with a pleasing impression, and none ever felt that they had been dismissed abruptly, or had been overlooked. She had the art of embellishing, by her talent and feminine grace, every subject she touched

upon. This gift of nature to her, as a Sovereign, was invaluable, for every eye and ear was directed to her as the representative of the royal House.

The forms of etiquette may suffice to preserve the dignity of royalty, but they cannot inspire interest; how animated the circle of courtiers became when the Queen condescended to converse with them, not only as an august Sovereign, but as a well-informed and captivating woman! Majesty and grace were united so harmoniously in her person, that as she moved from one to another, throughout the brilliant circle, each seemed to receive an especial phrase from her, as a most precious gift.

She received and encouraged distinguished men of every profession, and all scientific pursuits were promoted by the interest she took in their progress. Learned men were received with marked attention; and she had the art of obtaining information from them in the most *naïve* and winning manner; although she conformed to the established rules of the Court, nothing with her was a mere empty form.

The short period of time which the King permitted to be appropriated to Court receptions she knew how to economise, and to distribute judiciously, for when she perceived that the circle was too large to admit of her especial notice of each person, she greeted those who were well known to her in a friendly maner as she passed, never appearing as if she did not observe them, but hastened on to those

who were strangers, with an especial regard for their feelings, addressing each one individually; thus all were contented. This conduct was the impulse of her heart. A mere regard for outward forms could never have produced what her intuitive kindness effected. She must occasionally have shewn symptoms of weariness if good feeling had not prompted her exertions; it is only pure philanthropy that is inexhaustible.

On occasions of great ceremony her manners were tinged with a sense of the responsibility of her position; she knew that she had to sustain the dignity of the royal house of Prussia, but the majesty of the Queen was always tempered with the feminine gentleness of the graceful woman. She received the ambassadors not only with the courtesy due to their rank, but also frequently held interesting conversations with them on topics which her perfect knowledge of the history of their several states enabled her to do with ease.

With the family history of each ambassador she was sufficiently acquainted to render his relationship or connexion with remarkable persons, or events, in the history of his own country, a subject of conversation, on which she spoke, not superficially, but in a manner exhibiting real interest. It was easily perceived, by this accurate information of the affairs of foreign Courts, that the enlightened and well-informed Queen knew the position in which she stood relatively through the King to the various states of

Europe; but she ever remained within the limits she had prescribed for herself. Upon historical facts only did she express her opinion or judgment; never on political or diplomatic relations: if these chords were touched she turned the conversation into other channels. Her knowledge of the genealogy of the house of Brandenburg was not confined to its historical connexions with other states; she was also minutely acquainted with the personal history of her illustrious predecessors; and the details of their domestic life were most interesting to her; she read with avidity every publication on this subject that she could procure; and she manifested her gratitude when the biography of the great Elector, by Schröckt, was presented to her. Memoirs and biography formed a very favourite portion of her studies.

In the long gallery containing portraits of the consorts of the rulers of Hohenzollern, she was delighted to spend a portion of her time. She was well acquainted with the characteristics of each, from the consort of the Count of Nürnberg, Frederick I., the beautiful Elizabeth Princess of Bavaria (1400), down to the consort of Frederick William II., Princess Louisa of Hesse-Darmstadt, who was his second wife, the mother of her illustrious husband, and her own aunt.

These various connecting links in the chain of historical biography impressed her deeply with the notion that she also was responsible to the Prussian nation for an example to posterity, and that the honour

and estimation in which her name should be held in future generations, was a portion of the goodly heritage her descendants should receive. With these ideas of the duties she owed to posterity, she would frequently stand in the gallery at Charlottenburg, penetrated with the responsibility of her position, and animated by noble pride as she gazed on the portraits of her illustrious predecessors; and it was her delight to repeat the anecdotes and agreeable traits which had characterized them individually.

Gazing on the picture of Queen Sophia Charlotte, a Princess of Hanover, consort of the first King of Prussia, who died in 1705 she said:—

"This Princess was not only the first Queen of the kingdom of Prussia, but she also ranks first in intellectual power and scientific attainments; a richly gifted woman, of whom her illustrious grandson, Frederick the Great, declared 'that she was a Princess of the most distinguished merit, who possessed all the attractions of her sex, combined with the clearest and most profound understanding. In her mind was united the genius of a great man, and the profound knowledge of a learned one.' She perfectly comprehended Leibnitz, her tutor, and favourite adviser. The foundation and institution of the society of scientific men in 1700, by him, was assuredly her suggestion. She wrote thus to him at the time of the King's coronation at Königsberg: 'I do not estimate the splendour of a crown, on which people in this world set so high a value, in comparison with

the philosophical discourse we have had in Charlottenburg.' On her death-bed she said to one of her ladies, who was weeping over her, 'Do not regret me; I go now where I can satisfy my intense curiosity as to the primeval cause of those things which Leibnitz has never been able to explain to me—time and space—eternity and nonentity.' I honour and estimate her mental superiority,' continued the Queen; 'but she does not attract me.'" Going further back in the gallery, she stood before the portrait of Louisa Henrietta, a Princess of Orange, who died in 1667. She was the first consort of the great Elector of Brandenburg, Frederick William, "That is a lovely portrait," said the Queen; "she seems to greet me with an angelic smile, and it fills my whole soul with pleasure. Oh heaven! what a union! He, the great Elector, a hero in war, a just ruler in peace; in faith a Christian; great in life, he was also great in death. She, the Electress, full of intelligence, benevolence and love, living and dying in humble but firm reliance on her God and her Redeemer,—both formed but one heart—one soul. It rejoices and elevates me inexpressibly that, as the King resembles the great Elector more than any of his ancestors in profound veneration and sincere piety, the Electress is also to me the most attractive and interesting of my predecessors. We speak frequently of them, and of nothing with greater pleasure. Lately I have been reading, with real edification, the valuable records of

the foundation of the Orphan Asylum, and it seems yet as if her prayers and her blessing continued to rest upon that institution, her own pious work. Her spirit seems to hover over me, whenever I am, in the little town of Oranienburg, which bears her dear name. And now," continued the Queen, "amongst the admirable hymns attributed to her it is doubted whether some are really hers; however, she was the undoubted authoress of those which commence with *Ich will von meiner Missethat*, and the admirable one beginning *Jesus meine Zuversicht und mein Heiland ist im Leben*, which is so universally known to produce a soothing influence on piously-disposed minds. There is something wonderfully animating and consoling in that hymn. It will be echoed and re-echoed throughout the changes of time and space. However frequently it is repeated in the Church, at the dying couch, or at the brink of the grave, its effects are ever the same, in the consolation and peace of mind it inspires. What a great merit it is to have produced such a hymn which has already brought blessings to millions, and will continue daily to bring more, so long as time endures; only from a child-like heart, in all its simple faith and purity, could such a truly expressive strain flow forth."

Thus spoke the Queen in pious sympathy with the spirit of her admirable predecessor; and after she had remained some time silent in apparent devotion, she yielded to the feelings the hymn had inspired,

sat down to the piano-forte, and sang in the sweetest tones of her heavenly voice.

"Jesus meine Zuversicht,
Und mein Heiland ist in Leben,
Dieses weisz ich; solt ich nicht,
Darum mich Zufrieden geben?
Was die lange Todesnacht,
Mir auch für gedanken macht!"

There seemed around the Queen an atmosphere of holy purity, which her unaffected piety respired in these moments of outpouring devotional feelings; what she expressed in words was borne out by her actions; a spirit of love pervaded every movement of her existence. She was, indeed, what the Scriptures declare a virtuous woman to be, "more precious than the most costly jewels." But every woman in her domestic circle may be what the Queen was in her enlarged and elevated sphere, for her gentleness and universal charity were manifested as well in the ordinary occurrences common to every human being, as in the more prominent situation she filled as Sovereign. Whoever needed her assistance, physically or morally, was sure to receive her sympathy as well as protection.

On the 9th of January, 1804, the Queen had the pleasure of receiving the Princess Amelia Maria Anna of Hesse-Homberg, as her new sister-in-law, the bride of Prince William of Prussia. This marriage was solemnized on the 12th of the same month, and became the connecting link of a new and ardent

friendship, founded on the reciprocal knowledge of those inestimable qualities of the heart and head which both so eminently possessed. The intimate circle of the royal family received a most valuable addition to its domestic re-unions, by the presence of this charming Princess.

This was a happy state of existence, for each member of this illustrious family knew how to appreciate the affection which linked them in bonds of amity, still closer than in the ties of consanguinity.

The King knew how to value the inestimable treasure he possessed in his consort; and proved this, not only by his unvarying attention to her in their domestic life, but also when an opportunity occurred for publicly offering her that homage she so justly deserved, he manifested his respect for her in a manner suitable to her exalted rank as a Sovereign. Her birthday was always celebrated as a period of universal rejoicing; for it was the pleasure of the King to distinguish the anniversary of her natal day, which was on the 10th of March, with greater pomp and splendour than he generally exhibited.

In 1804 there was a *fête* given in the national Theatre, at Berlin, to commemorate the day she attained her 28th year, which was so tasteful in its design, and so successful in its execution, that a short description of some of the amusements may be acceptable.

The theatre was most brilliantly illuminated; the

pit was united to the stage, and for the first tableau, presented the appearance of a vineyard.

This mask, or fancy ball, was given to upwards of 3000 people; the Court and all the high official persons taking some share in the preparations for it. The orchestra received the addition of 100 amateurs, and the overture was composed expressly for the occasion. The *fête* was arranged to take place on the 12th of March. Expectation was at the highest pitch of excitement, when the Queen appeared, led forward to the front of the royal box by the King. He seemed to feel justly proud of the enthusiasm her exquisite beauty inspired; whilst in the full bloom of her personal charms, and most magnificently attired, she received the homage of the spectators, whose acclamations almost drowned the flourishes of the trumpets and drums. The Queen's affectionate gratitude to the King, as she gazed on the preparations made to do her honour, and her manner of receiving the burst of loyal enthusiasm from her subjects, was so feeling and so perfectly manifested in her behaviour, that its impression could never be effaced from the minds of those who witnessed it.

The mask was divided into nine tableaux, each forming a quadrille or appropriate dance; and the minutest care was taken that the costumes and decorations of the several periods and countries intended to be represented should be strictly preserved. The first tableau was composed of the royal family and

Court, about sixty persons in all; and according to the subject intended to be represented, the King should have taken a part in it, but this he could not bring himself to undertake; and perhaps the gravity of his natural exterior and the dignity of the Sovereign were equally opposed to such a display. Prince Henry of Prussia represented the King in the first tableau; but before it commenced, the spectators were gratified by a most exquisite symphony, composed expressly for the occasion. Prince Henry, as Alexander the Great, with a train of Medes, Scythians, and Egyptians, appeared victorious at the Court of Darius; Statira, daughter of Darius, who was represented by the Queen, came forward to present a propitiatory offering. Alexander, enraptured by her charms, with the approbation of his surrounding generals, offers her his hand. Her companions, (the Queen's ladies) crown him with laurels. The prisoners taken by his Admiral, Neach, (represented by Prince William,) appear with a body of sailors. All the prisoners were delivered over to Statira, who, with the most apparent satisfaction, gives them their liberty. The mask then concluded by a characteristic dance.

There was another representation, which is so charming in the ideal sense in which it may be taken, that it ought not to be passed over. It was called the "Metamorphosis of the Chrysalis." Sixteen figures, enveloped in grey coverings, to represent

the shapeless mass the butterfly presents before its transformation, were seen revolving slowly, with constrained movements, in a species of complicated knot. At the Queen's approach, these figures were suddenly divested of their exterior disguise, which sank as if by magic through the stage, and sixteen beautiful girls, with gossamer wings, to represent the butterfly, were seen fluttering their airy pinions in the bright light. Amidst the soft tones of music, intended to represent the music of the spheres, they executed the wavy movements of a dance, to convey the impression of buoyancy and freedom.

The Germans seem fond of mythological subjects; and this classical compliment to the Queen appears peculiarly happy; for who has not seen, in their own circle, some gifted being who has the power of inspiring life and animation to a mass of apparent nonentity, and this only by the magic power of that enthusiasm which must find some object to vivify and embellish with the rich and glowing colours of its own imagination. The Queen's affectionate heart and enthusiastic spirit was thus capable of inspiring *soul;* and no doubt this idea was intended to be conveyed.

There was a tableau, called "The Dance of the Hours," where twelve lovely girls, linked together in rosy bands, seemed to flutter about the Queen, and strewed flowers around her, investing her with all the sweetest attributes that could be conveyed by blossoms and other appropriate symbols. There were also

groups of Highlanders and Scottish maidens, and various national dances were executed in the costumes of their respective countries. The fête concluded with a sumptuous banquet, and the national anthem of "Heil unserm König heil." The general satisfaction had been enhanced by the consciousness that reciprocal good-will had animated the givers and receivers of this brilliant fête. Pomp and splendour, if only the mere outward demonstrations of respect, leave no enduring feelings; but when affectionate interest prompts the manifestation of homage, then, indeed, the effects are ineffaceable. It is the prerogative of love, that only that which springs from its pure source, can endure for ever.

On the 9th of December, 1804, the Privy Counsellor, Erman, Chief of the Consistorial Court, completed his zealous labours of fifty years as a preacher, and the event was celebrated in Berlin as a jubilee. The King wrote him a letter of congratulation, and accompanied it with a present of a valuable service of porcelain. The Queen also sent the good old man a gold snuff-box, and one hundred dollars for poor families, with a letter couched in the most gracious terms, calculated to gratify him by placing him in a position to administer relief in the abodes of misery and want.

On the 13th of December, 1804, the Queen was safely delivered of a son, who was baptized on the 6th of January in the ensuing year by the names of Frederick Julius Ferdinand Leopold.

On the 25th of February, 1805, the Court was placed in mourning by the decease of the widowed Queen of Frederic William II. She was greatly regretted by the Queen, as the mother of her beloved husband, whose respect and filial regard she had so fully merited.

The interest which the Queen felt in the progress of science and art induced her to examine any theory which might lead to important results. Thus the observations of the celebrated Dr. Gall, on the human cranium, attracted her especial attention; and as he came to Berlin this year, to give lectures on Phrenology, she was not content with a superficial knowledge of the system, but also attended his lectures, the King having sent for him to Potsdam for this purpose. A liberal patroness of scientific discovery, she presented the Doctor with a valuable diamond ring, and to his assistant, the Doctor Scharzheimar, a gold snuff-box.

In the spring of this year, the Queen accompanied the King to Magdeburg for the reviews, and thence to Halberstadt, where the royal pair arrived on the 29th of May. On this occasion, twelve young girls presented their Majesties with a poem. The covering was beautifully embroidered with a wreath of evergreen foliage round a flower, very uncommon at that time, which came from the Cape of Good Hope, called "Regina Strelizia." The motto was "Eternal youth shall bloom around thee, Strelizia." The poem was presented on a cushion of violet-coloured velvet

trimmed with silver fringe, the emblems of modesty and fidelity; and the following address to her Majesty was spoken by a young girl:—

"Halberstadt's daughters cannot resist their impulse of doing homage to the august Queen of Prussia, the model of her sex. We humbly solicit your Majesty to receive this simple expression of our feelings with indulgence. It would assuredly have been worthy the acceptance of so mighty a Sovereign, if the unskilful hands which executed it could have emulated the zeal and love that animate their bosoms."

The Queen most graciously assured the donors, that the memorial should be carefully preserved by her. The young girls then collected from their companions all the flowers they carried, and formed them into a beautiful bouquet which they offered to the Queen.

On the same day their Majesties arrived in Wernigerode, whence they were to visit the famous mountain in the Hartz chain, called the Brocken. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, the Queen persevered in her intention of ascending the Brocken; but on the following day, the prospect was entirely obscured by a snow storm, which obliged her to return to Wernigerode, and continue her journey through Ellrich to the baths called Alexandersbad in Bayreuth. Whilst indulging the curiosity of the people in Ellrich, who were so anxious to behold her, she observed a woman with

two children in her arms in the midst of the crowd, to whom she made a present, whilst she kindly told her to go out of the throng lest some injury might happen to the children as well as to herself. On her departure she bade the people farewell, and assured them she had derived much pleasure from her visit to Ellrich.

On the 14th of June she commenced a course of waters at Alexandersbad, and on the same day their Majesties visited the Luxburg. At the entrance of this beautiful ruin, the august visitors were greeted by a concealed choir of musicians. Sixteen young girls then came forth from a grotto to welcome them.

A chorus of male and female singers, accompanied by the orchestra, repeated alternately, some strophes in blank verse, which, as they were written by the celebrated Jean Paul von Richter, shall be literally translated. These measured lines were supposed to be sung by the Oreades and Naïds:—

A CHORUS OF OREADES AND NAÏDS.

Welcome, beloved Sovereigns,
The Spirits of the streams and mountains
Welcome your approach;
The ruins shall be renovated for you,
The valleys offer their tribute of flowers;
The mountains shall become a throne for you,
And this throne shall become an Olympus through you.

ORSADES ALONE.

The heights alone are befitting to thy eagle,
Our father Jove presented the eagle to you;
His claws are armed with the thunders of Jupiter,
When they blast with ravaging storms your enemies,
But only burst in gentle spring showers,
To bless and fertilize your meadows,

NAÏDS ALONE.

We inhabit but four little streams,*
It is the sea only which bore the Goddess of Beauty,
And to the sea all the smaller streams hasten,
As all hearts are attracted towards loveliness;
Still although the sea alone produced the divine creation,
Our four chrystal streams may reflect its celestial image,
And each mirror on their sparkling surface,
Thy image, as of four lovely sisters.

AN ORSADE ALONE.

I triumph over the nymphs of mountains and streams,
I call forth from the depths of the earth,
Instead of gold, the healing springs of the valley,
And the august Sovereigns tarry longest with them.

THE NAÏD OF THE SAALE.†

Then I surpass thee, for I accompany them farthest in their kingdom,
And all my immortal sisters from the pine-clad chain of mountains rush to meet me,
And with friendly embrace we unite to bear the German monarch's ships to the German sea.

* In the Fichtengebirge arise the sources of the four rivers, the Saale, the Eger, the Nabe, and the Main.

† The Saale falls into the Elbe.

CHORUS OF OREADES AND NAÏDS.

We are all equal now, for they are with us here,
Behold your privilege with joy,
Their august presence honours us with their protection.
May infinite greatness protect them!

On the 7th of July, their Majesties returned to Potsdam, and the Queen resumed the even tenor of her life, and her favourite studies. She spoke and wrote the German and French languages with great purity and fluency. Her conversation was simple and unstudied; warm-hearted and sincere in all her impressions, she readily adopted an ideal and poetical direction of thought, and soared willingly into the realms of imagination; but she never became what is sometimes called "sickly sentimental." She possessed a fund of good sense, and in this respect, resembled the King; but her command of language was greater, and consequently, her conversation more brilliant than his. On serious subjects, her phrases were slowly pronounced, and her tones became almost solemn. On lighter topics her voice thrilled with joyous tones, and her phrases were well-chosen, and often witty. The synonyms of her rich language were peculiarly attractive to her; the endless multiplicity, and the minutest shadows of expression, which may be conveyed by them, she compared to innumerable combinations of musical tones. The excellent work of Eberhard's on the relative sense of words, as also his "Aesthetische," (letters to the female

sex), she read with great attention. Bishop Eylert says, "Never will that beautiful evening in spring be forgotten, when she spoke to me on this subject, in the Library of the Neugarten; she manifested the greatest interest in the work, and expressed the most perfect similarity of opinion with the author. 'Oh!' cried she, in a species of rapture, 'if every thought, every feeling, as many millions of them as there may be, has its own relative and peculiar expression belonging to it!' 'It is so,' replied I; 'but it is written, He who never fails in words is a perfect man; thus said the Apostle James.' 'But how may we arrive at this perfection of expression?' 'By clear, distinct thoughts and pure feelings.' 'Ah!' replied she, 'who can be always and in everything exact? My best friend, the King, certainly can; he is laconic; richer in thought than in words; but silent, or in conversation he is always true. In truth lies the key to everything.'

"Whilst she spoke thus, the King entered, asking at the same time, 'What is the subject of the conversation?' 'When I,' said the Queen, 'speak of my model and example, thou knowest already who I mean; but I may not tell it thee; thou wilt never listen to me when I speak thus.'

"With affectionate delight, the Queen gazed on the King; he kissed her serene, open brow, and then offering her his arm, they went to the shaded avenue of trees, and sat down beneath an old willow on the margin of the 'Herlyer Lee,' where its long

spreading boughs encircled and concealed them. The view, from this spot, extends over Weisen, and the Peacock Island may be seen in the distance. Such a beautiful scene is well adapted for tranquil contemplation. If the traveller should be induced to visit this place, let him stand quietly and think that a King and Queen meditated there, whose religious sentiments were the first and purest sources of their enjoyment, although their destiny was the highest of earthly distinctions—a throne."

Bishop Eylert says: "The domestic life of the royal pair was such as is rarely witnessed; it was so pure, so joyous, so innocent. I recollect one of those family scenes, and it is a graceful picture of connubial happiness. After a family dinner, beneath the shade of the umbrageous oaks, the Queen asked, 'Where are the children?'—being answered, that they were all playing in the meadow, which projects into the Havel—she said to the King; 'Cannot we manage to surprise them, my dearest friend?' 'Yes,' was the reply; 'but we must enter the gondola, and steal upon them through the reeds, that they may not see our approach.'

"It was agreed; and the King taking the oars himself, pulled slowly through the reeds; the Queen standing the while, that her maternal eye might catch the first glimpse of the astonished group. They soon landed, and the joyous children ran to meet their parents, and embraced them as if they had been away for whole days, instead of a few minutes.

"'Papa!' said the Crown Prince, 'how did you get here?' The King replied; 'Through the reeds and the rushes!' 'That is charming,' said the Prince, 'amongst reeds is good whistle-cutting!' 'How do you understand that?' said the King. 'It means, clever people know how to turn situations to the best advantage.' The King said; 'If applied to yourself, what description of whistle would you choose to cut just now?' The Crown Prince, with his peculiar vivacity, answered: 'My desire just now, is, that we take our evening meal together, here, joyously on the grass!'

"The King held out his hand to the noble youth; the Queen pressed him ardently to her heart; and the request was granted.

"The whole company sat down on outspread carpets. The Queen gently leaned her head on the King's shoulder, her hand in his; and we all enjoyed the frugal meal. The sun-set was beautiful; and through the adjacent underwood were occasionally heard the softened bursts of harmonious music, which proceeded from the band of the guards. A holy calmness pervaded the patriarchal scene, and every one present felt that earth may be made the outer Court of Heaven. That feeling expressed itself by a solemn silence, which none seemed inclined to disturb—for language has no words for the indescribable.

"The Queen looked with serenity on the setting sun; her glance seemed a silent prayer and thanksgiving. At that moment her countenance had the

stamp of beatitude!—all that I have seen of her portraits, before or since, give but a faint resemblance of her then angelic countenance.*

On the 25th of October the Emperor Alexander of Russia paid a visit to their Majesties, and remained

* The King treasured in his heart these reminiscences of serene hours spent on that island in the society of his adored consort.—All that she had planned, ordered and embellished, recalled her beloved memory in after years, and soothed and nourished the melancholy but sweet recollection of her, which the King ever retained." Bishop Eylert adds :—

"On the eastern point of the island, where all now bears a sombre and pensive hue, after the death of the Queen, he caused an open temple to be erected; and placed her bust there, admirably executed in marble. The King often visited the hallowed spot, and would linger there in solitary contemplation. He was generally unattended; but on one occasion he requested me to accompany him. Having entered the temple, he said: 'In this hallowed place I prefer to think and feel, rather than to hear and speak.' Nothing was therefore said. After observing the Queen's bust for some time, he rose, and with a deep sigh, said: 'The fashion of this world passeth away.' I would have added a few consoling words, but it was not agreeable to him; on the contrary, he motioned his hand, indicating his wish to be undisturbed. He used to keep pent up within his own bosom that which most occupied his thoughts and most deeply agitated him. Silence was with him a more important art than speaking; and nothing was so annoying to him as empty talk;—what was unnecessary, he *naïvely* called *emballage*. Mutely and slowly we returned to the palace, where he dismissed me, countermanding at the same time the evening meal which we were to have partaken of together. Next day Colonel Witzleben informed me that the King had again visited the temple by moonlight."

until the 4th of November. The Emperor was to take his departure at one o'clock in the morning; but he expressed a wish to repair, according to the custom of his country, immediately before undertaking a journey, to some church; and the garrison Church at Potsdam, which contains the remains of the Great Frederick, was chosen for this purpose. At midnight the church was lighted up; and the Emperor, accompanied by the King and Queen, repaired thither. They afterwards visited the small chamber which contains the remain of the greatest monarch of his age. In the most profound emotion the Emperor quitted this place, and, taking leave of their Majesties with friendly regret, he instantly got into his carriage and commenced his journey.

On the 6th of March, 1806, the King, accompanied by his royal consort, went to Schwedt and Stettin, in order to see the Russian troops who were to pass through those places on their return to their native country. Their Majesties left the latter place for Berlin on the 12th of the same month.

The Queen's health had suffered greatly in the winter of 1805-6. On the 6th of April she had the misfortune to lose her son, Prince Ferdinand; and her indisposition was aggravated by her sorrow for his death. The baths of Pyrmont were prescribed for her, and she repaired thither in the month of June. These healthful springs were very beneficial. She drank the waters from their source, and also

used the bath with scrupulous regularity, in order that the object of her journey might be sooner attained, and that her absence from the King and her children, which she had so reluctantly decided upon, might not be useless. She had the delight of being with her father, the Duke of Mecklenburgh, and her brother, the hereditary Prince, during her stay in Pyrmont.

Those who were aware of her strong natural affections will comprehend how delightful this domestic re-union proved to her. The hereditary Princess of Weimar, (the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia,) who united so many virtues with so much loveliness, was also at Pyrmont. She was a charming companion for the Queen, and a friendship was formed between these two admirable Princesses, of which the Queen never spoke without emotion. The delightful environs of Pyrmont had the most beneficial effect on the Queen's health and spirits, and her countenance again exhibited its wonted cheerfulness.

Towards the end of her stay at Pyrmont, the Queen had learnt the dissolution of the confederacy of the Rhine; and the Protectorate of the French Emperor was now the topic of the day. All that had occurred in the interim in the Prussian cabinet, and the preparations for the impending war, appear to have been unknown to the Queen; and it is to be presumed, that the King was desirous of sparing her every kind of anxiety during the period she was

taking the course of mineral waters. After a six weeks' sojourn at Pyrmont, the Queen passed through Hildesheim, Halberstadt, and Magdeburg, on her journey back to Charlottenburg, for the celebration of the King's birthday. Her journey was rendered agreeable by the manifestations of attachment from her people; on every side she received proofs of the most sincere and touching affection. Some miles from Potsdam the King met her, and upon her arrival at Charlottenburg, she received a proof of that tender affection with which he had busied himself in recollections of her, during her absence. The large sandy space before the gates of the Palace garden had been transformed into a verdant lawn, and those poplars were planted which now lend their beneficent shade to the spot.

With grateful emotion, the Queen acknowledged this affectionate surprise; and she frequently afterwards dwelt on this circumstance, which made her favourite Charlottenburg still more dear to her. She now learnt, for the first time, that war with France was decided upon, and appeared to be inevitable; and that the whole army would soon be in motion.

This circumstance is especially named, to anticipate the accusation of the French Emperor, that it was the Queen who desired war, and exerted herself to promote it. The Queen, on the contrary, had so little participation in this decision, which Napoleon

wished to make the world believe was the result of her influence, that she was only made acquainted with it after it had been actually determined upon. But the King having decided upon war, and it having become a matter of state policy, which affected the general interests, she openly expressed her approbation of it. She desired nothing so much as the honour and glory of the nation, and so great was her affection for the King, that she could have no other views than his. Vehement passions of any kind were foreign to her soul, because an elevated sentiment of religion decided all her actions, and what was once resolved upon as just and right, she sedulously struggled to promote. She frequently shed tears of compassion when she heard of the ravages of war in other countries. The tears of bereaved mothers, wives, and sisters, and the sufferings of the orphan could not, therefore, be indifferent to her compassionate heart. But she knew that there are greater and higher objects than any this life can offer, and that, for such objects, life itself must be staked. Sacred, and applicable to all ages, were the words of Holy Writ in the Queen's estimation—"Fear not them which are only able to kill the body; but rather fear them which are able to destroy body and soul." And the spirit of evil which desired to corrupt both body and soul was, as she thought, the French power.

With a German heart, and a Christian disposition,

the Queen united the spirit of the Roman women, when patriotism, with all its attendant virtues, animated their bosoms. The Queen deemed war inevitable when only by such means a durable and honourable peace could be attained. She knew also, that a wise and paternal government would soon efface the traces of previous suffering, and that the consciousness of having struggled for a noble and legitimate object, would repay the greatest sacrifices. War was the goal to which every end and aim of the French Emperor was directed; but the Queen's aspirations were not earthly; she was prompted by the knowledge that there was a higher destiny for humanity than sublunary distinction. She had no wish for empire, and her destiny was already a throne. Very early she had scanned the limits which nature, as well as society, had assigned to her sex, and she was well aware that indirect influence should never be brought to bear upon direct authority, especially when in such close contiguity to the throne; otherwise a state of things must ensue for which, happily, there exists no word in the German language, and the heart of the Queen was too pure and elevated for "*intrigue*."—But this anticipates; the French Emperor had not as yet uttered his accusations against the Queen.—The "Telegraph" had not yet appeared.

The Queen remained but six weeks at Charlottenburg, after her return from Pyrmont. She then,

in the middle of September, accompanied the King to Naumburg, on the river Saale, where he awaited the arrival of the Russian troops. The friendship of the Emperor Alexander had never varied since he first saw the King, at Memel, in the year 1802, and the arts of skilful policy had not succeeded in weakening it. As soon as the King had resolved upon war, the Emperor, like a true friend, hastened to his assistance.

Napoleon has censured the Queen for accompanying her husband on this occasion; but in the royal house of Prussia, sincere attachment in the Consort of the throne is not only a usual occurrence, but is most beneficial in its example. One of the most ancient and valiant of the King's ancestors, Frederick I., Elector of the House of Hohenzollern, had the happiness of possessing a consort, Elizabeth of Bavaria, known by the appellation of the beautiful Else, who was a most affectionate companion. She was so devoted to him, and possessed so powerful a mind, that during the war which he carried on with the nobles of Marken, she appealed to the people, and herself led them on to his assistance. The Great Elector Frederick William also conducted his wife through the enemy's lines, and was not the less a hero and a conqueror.

On the Queen's arrival at Berlin from Pyrmont, and on her first visit to the national theatre, she had been received with the liveliest demonstrations of joy, at her return in renovated health. But this joy

was only of short duration. The storms of war, which had not yet ravaged the north of Europe, now threatened the peaceful dominions of Prussia, and cast a gloom over the whole nation, as well as the royal house. The dark period which succeeded, might be designated as a time of individual and universal mourning.

The power of France at this period had been elevated by Napoleon Buonaparte to a height which had already partly destroyed, and now threatened wholly to annihilate the limits assigned to it by the political system of Europe during the last century. The Government of France could only be compared to the fabled giant, Briareus, with his hundred arms; it desired to grasp not only every political engine of State, but also to intermeddle in the most minute and trivial concerns of families. If its operation had already been felt in the relations of domestic life, it may naturally be inferred that the political relations of the King and the State had been radically affected.

It is necessary to cast a retrospective glance over the general aspect of affairs in Europe, in order to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the Queen's peculiar position, and to understand those circumstances of her life which operated so powerfully on her destiny at a later period. What she so ardently desired, and what she had to endure, will then be easily comprehended. The effects of the French revolution, which had ensued from a system of corruption, and

which now seemed likely to terminate in a similar system, had been mournfully apparent for some time past. The hopes which had been entertained by well-disposed, but unenlightened minds of that period, that this revolution was the dawn of a glorious epoch, had vanished. What effects it would produce throughout Europe were still in the darkness of futurity; but that a violent storm was gathering which should destroy all that was weak and tottering, might be deduced from the lowering aspect of the political horizon.

In Germany the revolution was viewed, from its very commencement, in a different way from what honourably-intentioned minds in France were inclined to regard it. It was therefore natural that all good Germans should revolt from it with horror; only perverted minds, and the most selfishly ambitious expected to realize any advantage from it. Germany had soon perceived that the re-generation of fallen humanity could not be attained in this manner. All intelligent people now seemed to draw nearer to their legitimate rulers, and to look up to them for protection against foreign force and its attendant evils. All the States made preparations for resistance, for it was now apparent that revolutions may destroy, but order and a spirit of love can alone repair the ravages committed by anarchy.

In France, a system of increasing corruption was the only apparent effect of the revolution; the most sacred truths were only uttered to prove their nullity

with reference to the welfare of mankind. However much other countries had suffered by the revolution, yet as these sufferings were imposed by foreign violence the root remained healthy and sound. In France the root itself was corrupt. Agitated a thousandfold in her interior, she seemed to have attained the extremest grade of suffering, when suddenly, by the genius of one man, a new order of things arose, and the people were deluded with the expectation of the termination of anarchy and confusion. Had the then General Napoleon Buonaparte been free from selfish ambition, France might have been saved. But he, who would control the course of events, and arrest the progress of their concomitant evils, must himself be elevated above them. Buonaparte was a genuine production of that epoch—an offspring of the revolution. The conflicting passions in a time of civil commotion; the state of hostility existing between France and foreign powers; and the lust of conquest that ensued, had engendered his talents, aroused his ambition, and developed his despotic will.

The First Consul found France, and a great part of Europe, shaken to the very centre by the effects of the revolution, and the order of things everywhere more or less subverted. In these conflicting struggles, and in the period of exhaustion which followed, it was easy for him to impose fetters on France as well as on those other states which, by adverse circumstances, were unhappily in connexion with it.

The French Government assumed the right of

dictating to the whole world; every nation was expected to succumb to its power. Napoleon, as supreme head of the French people, reserved to himself the right of examining and redressing all grievances produced by the revolution. He laid the foundation of his power by speedily restoring the honour of the French arms, which had been tarnished during the latter period of the Directorial rule.

That experienced and popular General, Moreau, whose operations had been crippled by the wavering decisions of the Directory, assisted the French Consul in promoting the unity of his power.

Italy, and a portion of Germany, were again subdued; but feeling the necessity of tranquillity for France, Buonaparte saw that his first duty must be to procure her internal repose, and therefore he concluded a peace with the southern province of La Vendée.

On the continent, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, were opposed to him. France was already in open arms against the two former powers, whilst the sea-girt isle of Great Britain had refused to conclude any treaty of peace with French anarchy.

Since the year 1792 Austria had suffered in continual warfare, with few intermissions. The peace of Campo-Formio was of short duration, and did not achieve its object. The peace of Radstadt accomplished more, but was yet fruitless. Austria at length required repose, and the paternal government

of the Emperor Francis believed it was not purchased too dearly by some sacrifices. The peace of Luneville was thus ratified.

The Emperor of Russia had been early aware that it was good, as well as skilful policy, to oppose France, and he perceived this obligation more clearly as the colossal power of that country became more developed.

With different views he might, by uniting with France, have crushed for a century all that lay between their respective territories. On the banks of the Maas, the Rhine, the Donau, and the Etsch, the Russian troops had already fought; but it was difficult for Russia to prosecute the war beyond her territories; and, actuated by political and benevolent views, the Emperor Alexander resolved to sign the peace of Paris. Occupied with paternal cares for his people, he was busily employed in the interior of his vast empire. The King of Prussia also was occupied in the same way. This peaceful Sovereign, who had been early familiar with the evils of war, avoided hostilities, and profited by the interval of peace to secure protection for the property and persons of his subjects, which were becoming more and more insecure in the west.

England, stimulated by a magnanimous policy, founded on the love of freedom and the desire of independence, had frequently endeavoured to stop the increasing ramifications of the French power,

and to weaken the preponderance it had obtained throughout Europe. It was impossible to form a durable union between things so contrary in their nature as the solid views of the British Cabinet, with Pitt at its head, and those of the varying powers of French anarchy; but in the person of the First Consul, the French power had attained unity—the peace of Amiens was then concluded. It was the last essay on the part of England to obtain and establish, by way of treaty, the equilibrium of power on the continent. Pitt had declared it would be vain, and had therefore gone out of the administration.

The three great treaties of Luneville, Paris, and Amiens, were followed by treaties of peace and alliance with many of the smaller states, which had been plunged into confusion, having fallen under the dominion of France. Peace was also concluded with the Porte, in order that she might in future unite with France against Russia, Austria, and England.

In Spain, Portugal, and Italy, especially the latter, the power of France was firmly established; a concordat was concluded with the Pope, whose power was so circumscribed, and that in the most treacherous manner, that it became nearly annihilated. Several German States were obliged to succumb without conditions; Switzerland was required to give up her ancient constitution, and accept a pernicious act of mediation, which was soon followed by a treaty of alliance for fifty years, founded on the closest calculations of the position and resources of the Swiss

and subjecting them, beforehand, to the severest sacrifices.

This short interval of repose was taken advantage of by the First Consul, to strengthen his own despotic sway; and by the combined influence of vanity and self-interest he attached a great part of the nation, and many of his allies, to his own individual existence.

The various treaties of peace were only partially fulfilled, and in such a manner as clearly predicted they would soon be wholly violated. Equally vain were the exertions of the greater and minor powers to maintain the articles of the treaties; it was evident that war must again be the watchword throughout Europe, unless the whole world were to become a prey to the ambition of Napoleon without unsheathing the sword in its defence. England, after a very short interval of peace, was the first to pronounce the watchword of defiance, by declaring hostilities with France. The First Consul profited by this declaration, and made it a pretext for aggrandizing his own personal power. It was necessary to prepare naval armaments against England; and for these, authority, strength and unity were requisite. At first, a decree of the Senate prolonged his rule for ten years; soon after it was granted to him for life. Somewhat later, a Council of the Senate elevated him to the dignity of Emperor of the French. This was soon followed by transforming the Republic of Italy into a kingdom; and Napoleon proclaimed himself its king. But a deed of blood preceded the

imperial coronation. A grandson of the great Condé was the only Bourbon who, by accidental circumstances, remained near the French frontiers; he was living in retirement, and without asserting any claim to the throne. Vain were all the expostulations of reason: a combination of fears seemed to have possessed the mind of Napoleon. In the obscurity of darkness, a neighbouring friendly territory was violated by the seizure of the Duke d'Enghien. He was immediately delivered over to a bloody tribunal, and his sentence instantly put into execution, in the presence of his judges. Thus Napoleon did not hesitate to ascend the steps of the throne of France, stained by the blood of one of its heirs. But not only the throne, and whatever stood in immediate connexion with it, but all who did not pay blind obedience to the power of France, and do homage to its doctrines and opinions, were to fall beneath the law of force. The bookseller, Palm, because he would not discover the author of two pamphlets, in which the writer had prophesied in strong terms what the French power would become, and what Germany, especially, had to apprehend from it, was seized on a foreign and friendly territory and shot, contrary to the laws of civilized nations.

Thus a despotic power had arisen, of whose might posterity can scarcely form a conception. It will be necessary to dwell for a few moments on the extent of the grievances it produced.

The censorship of the press in France became more

severe; and the demands of the French Emperor upon those Governments with whom he was in alliance, more exorbitant and pressing; all were expected to minister to his ambition, to obey his mandates, and by imposing fetters on the understanding to enslave the minds of men.

Religion, that highest consolation, that direct link which connects the creature with his Creator, which announces to fallen man his godlike origin, and conducts him back to his divine source,—was to be a matter subservient to State policy, as a means of restraining and deluding the people: the internal light of its sacred character was thus to become extinct.

The French Government assumed to itself that power which every Government is bound to concede to religion—the instruction of the people, which was only to be directed to the ends and aims of France, and every thing national or universal was to succumb to her doctrines. This is proved by the French catechism, and the whole of the regulations of the Lyceum. Science was no longer permitted to progress free and unfettered in the universal realms assigned to her by nature. She was first to examine carefully whether her discoveries would be suitable, or might be adapted to the artful contrivances of a new system of political government. Even the fine arts were no longer permitted their natural vocation of ministering to the beautiful, for they were forced to do homage to absolute power, and to perpetuate the memory of deeds of arbitrary force. No longer were

the reciprocal advantages of commerce allowed to continue the beneficent and universal bond of union between different nations. The ports were closed to the productions of foreign industry, and even to the natural productions of foreign climates; nay, even more, the utterance of the healthy opinions of a free nation, and its energetic aspirations after liberty, were prohibited. The peaceful farmer could no longer cultivate his paternal fields in security; the seed which he was consigning to the earth might be trampled on by the war-horse of the enemy, or the harvest might be reaped by a foreign power. No longer could the peaceful burgher, after having faithfully fulfilled the duties of the day, escape from the pressure of his daily toil to the sanctuary of truth, where he might reflect and meditate on the blessings of freedom in undisturbed security. What they were permitted to know of the events of that period was altered, mutilated, and depicted in the false colours commanded by a deceptive course of policy. It was even sought to entice friends and relatives to become spies in their domestic circles, and by the corrupt influence of self-interest, to induce them to betray every unguarded expression of opinion of their fellow-citizens, and thus deliver them over to spoliation, or perhaps, utter ruin. All classes and ages were affected. No longer in the joyful might of anticipation could the youth set forth on his career of life, animated by hopes of success. If he were destined for the service of the State, for the fine arts or for

science, the highest rewards were no longer in store for him; all that could give dignity to existence, or repay in anticipation his many hours of arduous toil, was annihilated. And this was the general aspect of things throughout Europe.

The Queen, who duly estimated the advantages of science and art, which had progressed so rapidly amongst her people, now became deeply anxious. She wished every talent and virtue of the citizen to be appreciated and rewarded. To see the most valuable gifts of life endangered, and its best blessings annihilated, excited intense anxiety in her mind, and filled her whole soul with melancholy.

It has already been stated that England, in the year 1803, again pronounced the signal of war, after a short interval of peace, which had only continued one year.

In 1805 Russia and Austria united; a year later England joined them. A new war also broke out in Germany. In the same year the passage of the French troops through Anspach, during a period of acknowledged Prussian neutrality, was the first occurrence which developed the true nature of the campaign. Anxiety was now awakened in every state, upon the progress of the French arms, and the dissemination of French principles. It was natural that such a tyrannical aggression as the forcible entrance of the French troops into a State, for which the King had striven to secure the blessings of peace, should deeply agitate the mind of the Queen. She had seen

in perspective what now became clear; she foresaw that memorable results were to ensue; and the most painful forebodings clouded the natural serenity of her mind. Persons who knew the Queen most intimately, do not remember that she ever expressed her opinions on any political subject before this period; but thenceforward, her whole soul was occupied with the eventful epoch, and a profound gravity was remarkable in her demeanour. She seldom expressed what she felt, for she knew the necessity of precaution, and the responsibility of her position; but she felt most poignantly.

After the forcible passage of the troops through Anspach, the King allied himself with Russia and Austria against France, and caused his troops to be put in motion; but scarcely had they begun their march, ere the French arms had triumphed. The surrender of Ulm was the consequence of the battle of Austerlitz, and a peace was speedily concluded between Austria and France. Austria made enormous sacrifices, as the result of the peace of Presburg proved. Prussia could not make similar sacrifices, and endeavoured to negociate. Russia did not then conclude a treaty of peace, and only at a later period withdrew her troops within her frontiers. Thus commenced the year 1806, which was so disastrous for Prussia.

A council of the Senate was convened to add the epithet "Great" to the French Emperor's title; for Napoleon, who well knew how to estimate and avail

himself of the weakness of mankind, relied on the influence of high-sounding appellations upon the masses. He was aware that what is often repeated, at length convinces and deceives the multitude. Deeds of arbitrary power now followed in quick succession. The abdication of thrones was enforced; kingdoms were acquired by cunning and treachery; Prussia was obliged to cede Anspach and Cleves with Wesel and Neufchatel. The kingdom of Naples was occupied by French troops, and soon after Prince Joseph, brother of the French Emperor, became King of Naples; Murat became Hereditary Grand-Duke of Cleves and Berg; Prince Louis, another brother of Napoleon, became King of Holland; Guastalla was given to Princess Borghese, a sister of Napoleon; the Venetian States were united to Italy; and Cardinal Fesch, uncle to the French Emperor, was named coadjutor and successor of the Chancellor of the German Empire. There could now no longer remain a doubt that Napoleon had resolved to divide all Europe amongst his own family.

Prussia had endeavoured to form a northern confederacy of German States, to counterbalance the influence of France in the Confederation of the Rhine, and had failed. It is certain, that the plan was defeated chiefly by obstacles thrown in the way by Napoleon, particularly as to the Hanse-towns, which, he declared, could not be included in any particular confederation; but he offered no open opposition. Murat, whose Duchy of Berg placed him in the

vicinity of Prussia, unjustifiably seized upon three abbeys, which he declared ought to belong to his territories, and also permitted his officers to act in an offensive manner. In all this there was no absolute cause for war, but assuredly for remonstrance and negociation. At the same time, the arbitrary and vindictive act of oppression and cruelty on the part of the French authorities at Nuremberg, contributed to bring them into odium all over Germany. When Palm, the bookseller was seized for publishing a libel on Napoleon, tried by a military commission and shot, the public mind, already inflamed against the French, was excited to the highest pitch of indignation. The Queen, enthusiastic in all her feelings, participated in the patriotic spirit which animated the people. Prince Louis of Prussia and a band of young nobles, who were full of ardour to repeat the victories of the Great Frederick, are said to have sharpened their sabres on the threshold of the French ambassador, and to have broken the windows of the ministers supposed to be in the French interest. The army was strongly recruited. The Queen frequently appeared in the uniform of the regiment which bore her name, and sometimes rode at its head. In the midst of the popular ferment thus created, the Emperor of Russia visited Berlin, and promised the aid of his army against France.

On the 1st of October, the Prussian envoy was

interrogated by Talleyrand, as to the cause of the martial attitude assumed by his State. He delivered a paper in reply, containing three demands:—First, that all the French troops should immediately evacuate Germany; secondly, that France should cease to present obstacles to the formation of the northern confederacy; thirdly, that the Fortress of Wesel, and the three abbeys seized by Murat, should be restored. These demands, accompanied by a long accusatory letter, amounted to a declaration of war. Napoleon had already left Paris for Maintz, the imperial guard being ordered to proceed thither without delay; and an immense French army was on its march towards the frontiers of Saxony. Reports from Germany hastened these operations. The Prussian army was established at Erfurt and Weimar, having already advanced through Saxony, notwithstanding the urgent desire of the Elector to remain neutral. The Elector of Saxony joined his forces to the Prussians, and the Duke of Weimar took the command of the cavalry. Their army made no further advance, but suffered the French to concentrate, neglecting to dispute the passages of the Saale and Elbe, and suffering them to debouch by Saalfield. The advanced guard of the Prussian left, under Prince Louis of Prussia, here encountered the division of Marshal Lannes, and was entirely defeated, and put to flight: the young Prince, one of the prime movers of the war, being among its first victims.

He fought with passionate gallantry at the head of his troops, but being summoned to surrender himself prisoner by a French hussar, he replied by a cut with his sabre at the face of his opponent, and was instantly run through the body.

The King of Prussia had placed the Duke of Brunswick at the head of his army. The Duke had gained renown as a General in his youth, but he had been out-manœuvred by Dumouriez in 1792, and being seventy-two years of age, now added obstinacy to some of the infirmities of declining life. It would have been more prudent to have delayed the commencement of the war till the advance of the Russians; but the Duke of Brunswick, on the contrary, pushed forward through Saxony into Saxe-Weimar.

The King of Prussia was at head-quarters in person; and his courage and popularity, together with the frequent presence of the Queen, inspired the troops with ardour. Many Generals and soldiers in the ranks had served under the Great Frederick, and the whole army was distinguished by the most rigid discipline. It amounted in numbers to upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand men; but the French army was still stronger.

When at Jena, within half a day's journey of Naumburg, Napoleon despatched a letter to Frederick William, offering peace. "If I were only beginning my military career," said he; "if I could fear the chance of battle, the language which I hold to your Majesty would be out of place: but your Majesty will

be conquered; and without the shadow of a pretext, will have compromised the repose of your days and the safety of your subjects." This letter remained unnoticed. It is mentioned by Scott as a specimen of exulting irony, resembling the sensations of an angler when the fish is hooked, and about to become his prey.

"The army of the Great Frederick," says Scott, "was, it must be owned, brought to combat with as little reflection or military science as a herd of school-boys might have displayed in a mutiny."

The resolution of Napoleon was now formed. He had captured the Prussian mail, and ascertained that the main army was still at Weimar. He ordered the cavalry under Murat, to join Davoust and Bernadotte at Naumburg, while he himself, with the rest of the army marched upon the elevated plain of Jena, where he bivouacked on the 13th of October, at sunset, not a fortnight after the declaration of the King of Prussia, which had determined the war. Early on the morning of the 14th, Davoust marched from Naumburg, and advanced to the attack of that division of the Prussian army, which, commanded by the King and the Duke of Brunswick, had rested for the night on the heights of Auerstadt. His division consisted of thirty-five thousand men; the Prussian army of upwards of seventy thousand. Bernadotte, who should have supported him, insisted on passing to the front; and on being refused that position, and shewn, besides, that such a movement would

expose their forces to imminent danger, held aloof under one pretext or another, and did not support Davoust, who, notwithstanding, obtained a complete victory. The Duke of Brunswick was mortally wounded early in the action, and carried from the field. General Schmettau and Marshal Möllendorf, the next in command, were also wounded; and the King himself, with the scattered remains of the army, was left to execute a retreat in the direction of Weimar, which he was enabled to effect, in consequence of Davoust's want of cavalry, Bernadotte having contrived to hold them back with his own division.

On the same morning which decided the fate of one-half of the Prussian army at Auerstadt, Napoleon got his troops under arms at daybreak, on the plain of Jena; and prepared to give battle to Prince Hohenlohe. As at Austerlitz, a thick fog lay on the ground, and though the bivouacs of the two armies were only at half cannon-shot distance, and the sentinels so near, that every movement was mutually heard, they were quite invisible to each other. The Emperor, in his address, explained to his soldiers the situation of their enemies. "Soldiers," said he, "the Prussian army is surrounded like that of Mack, at Ulm, exactly one year ago. They fight not so much for victory, as to get free and regain their communications. The corps which suffers itself to be penetrated will lose its reputation. Do not fear their celebrated cavalry; oppose to it firm squares and the

bayonet." He was answered by loud cries of "Forward!"

The Prussians maintained their high reputation for military discipline, executing every manœuvre with the regularity and precision of machines. In the various evolutions of the day, the two armies had completely changed their position. A bold and close attack, made by Lannes upon the centre of the Prussian line, caused them to change front on their right wing, the left wing in the rear. The French army was therefore obliged to make the opposite movement, and change front on the left wing, the right wing in advance, and the action recommenced along the whole line. At this moment an unexpected event decided the battle. Augereau had been left at Maintz to form a corps with the regiments which had been sent to France after Austerlitz. He had marched with extraordinary celerity, and arrived with his troops, advancing through a pine wood in the rear of the Prussians, just as the new position had been effected. His sudden attack made them waver. Napoleon seized the critical moment. He brought the imperial guard into action, and ordered his cavalry, concentrated in the centre of the army, to charge with desperation. The charge succeeded. The Prussians gave way, fell into disorder and their rout began. The head of Murat's cavalry now appeared on the field, arriving from their state of inaction at Auerstadt; and rushing upon the fugitives, who were in irretrievable disorder, pursued

them with deadly speed along the road to Weimar. The confusion and carnage became horrible, when the stream of panic-stricken men encountered, at the point of junction with the road from Auerstadt, another tide of fugitives from the battle won by Davoust, also directing their frantic course upon Weimar. It was at this period that the King of Prussia, finding himself entangled in the almost inextricable maze, escaped across the fields, escorted by a small body of cavalry. He had shewn great courage in the battle, but courage was no longer of any avail. The situation of the inhabitants of Weimar on this dreadful day, and the high-minded conduct of the Duchess, have been thus finely described by Falk:—

"On the 14th of October, about mid-day, when the defeat of the Prussian army was no longer doubtful, the Duchess of Weimar made instant arrangements for removing her daughter, and the Duchess-mother out of the wild tumults of war. To escape from it herself did not for a moment enter her thoughts. Nearer rolled the wave of destruction,—nearer the thunder of the fight: cannon balls fell in the city,—wounded and dead filled the streets. A part of the hostile army had hardly entered Weimar in the evening, when the most rapacious pillage began. The fall of night increased the terror. Fire broke out a short distance from the castle; the flames cast their red glare into the Duchess's apartments, and the cries of distress mingled with the

drunken riot of the soldiery. French officers and their suites had taken possession of the greater part of the palace. The Duchess had afforded to many persons of the town, nay, whole families with their valuables, an asylum and protection in her own part of the building. The most valuable articles lay about her anti-chamber in confused and motley heaps. All the provisions in the palace were soon seized by the French, and the Duchess herself left in absolute want. But though all outward supports and appearances of her princely dignity were wrenched from her, her courage, her firm enduring constancy, remained unshaken.

"The Duchess had assembled around her the ladies of her Court, and generously offered an asylum to the English, whose situation was then so perilous. Her amiable friend, Miss Gore, with her aged parent, and Mr. Osborne, a gentleman who formerly filled a diplomatic character in several of the continental Courts, were among the select party whom the Duchess collected together in a wing of the castle, while the State apartments were opened for the reception of the unwelcome guest.

"During the awful 14th of October, the Duchess and her friends were immured in their retreat, and had no nourishment but a few cakes of chocolate found by accident. When the fortunes of the day began to be decided (and that took place early in the morning), the Prussians retreating through the town, were pursued by the French and slaughtered

in the streets. Some of the inhabitants were murdered, and a general plunder began. In the evening the conqueror approached and entered the palace of the Duke of Weimar, now become his own by the right of conquest. It was then that the Duchess left her apartment, and seizing the moment of his entering the hall, placed herself at the head of the staircase to greet him with the formality of a courtly reception.

"Napoleon started when he beheld her. 'Qui êtes-vous?' he exclaimed with his characteristic abruptness. 'Je suis la Duchesse de Weimar.' 'Je vous plains,' he retorted, fiercely, 'j'écraserai votre mari.' He then added, 'I shall dine in my apartment,' and rushed by her.

"The night was spent, on the part of the soldiery, in all the horrid excesses of rapine and plunder. The inhabitants were exposed, without defence, to all the licentious excesses of a military intoxicated by victory. The Duchess and her friends remained in a state hardly less deplorable; for though not exposed to personal danger, their feelings were sharpened by finer sensibility. Though exhausted by suffering, the Duchess had resolved not to abandon the unhappy inhabitants without an effort in their favour. Accordingly, she sent her chamberlain early in the morning to inquire concerning the health of his Majesty the Emperor, and to solicit an audience. The morning dreams of Napoleon had possibly soothed his mind to gentleness, or he recollected that he

was monarch as well as general, and could not refuse what the Emperor owed to the Duchess: he accordingly returned a gracious answer, and invited himself to breakfast with her in her apartment.

"On his entrance, he began instantly with an interrogative, (his favourite habit): 'How could your husband, Madam, be so mad as to make war against me?' 'Your Majesty would have despised him if he had not,' was the dignified answer he received. 'How so?' he hastily replied. The Duchess slowly and deliberately rejoined: 'My husband has been in the service of the King of Prussia upwards of thirty years; and surely it was not at the moment when the King had so mighty an enemy as your Majesty to contend with, that the Duke could abandon him.' A reply so admirable, which asserted so powerfully the honour of the speaker, and yet conciliated the vanity of the adversary, was irresistible. Buonaparte became at once more mild, and, without noticing the answer already received, continued his interrogatories, 'But how came the Duke to attach himself to the King of Prussia?' 'Your Majesty will, on inquiry, find that the Dukes of Saxony, the younger branches of the family, have always followed the example of the Electoral House; and your Majesty knows what motives of prudence and policy have led the Court of Dresden to attach itself to Prussia rather than Austria."

"This was followed by further inquiries and further answers, so impressive, that in a few minutes Napo-

leon exclaimed with warmth: 'Madame, vous êtes la femme la plus respectable que j'aj jamais connue: vous avez sauvé votre mari.' Yet he could not confer favour unaccompanied with insult; for reiterating his assurances of esteem, he added: 'Je le pardonne, mais c'est à cause de vous seulement; car, pour lui, c'est un mauvais sujet.' The Duchess made no reply to this; but seizing the happy moment, interceded successfully for her suffering people. Napoleon gave orders that the plundering should cease; and afterwards ordered that Mr. Osborne who had in the meanwhile been arrested, should be released."

A striking instance of two different views of the same events, by parties equally engaged in them, is now before us. The German version by a civilian we have just given. The following is from the pen of a French officer:

"In the evening I was directed," says Rapp, "together with Murat, to pursue the wrecks of the Prussian army. We took some Saxon battalions, and we entered pell-mell with them into Weimar. Some few disorders took place; *but they were of little consequence!*"

It is computed by the French authorities that the Prussians lost in killed, wounded, and prisoners, fifty thousand men on the 14th of October; the number of generals and officers included in the list being much beyond the usual proportion; while the French loss was comparatively small, and none of their celebrated

generals were even wounded. Lannes had his breast grazed by a ball, and Davoust had his hat knocked off, and his clothes pierced in many places by bullets; but neither of them was hurt. Nearly the whole of the Saxon infantry were made prisoners; but Napoleon set them at liberty, and sent by one of the officers a pacific message to the Elector at Dresden, offering oblivion of the past, and future amicable relations on condition of his returning to the original policy, out of which he had been forced by the power of Prussia. Napoleon at the same time rejected an application from the King of Prussia, soliciting an armistice. It was too evidently made to gain time for the approach of the Russians, which the King had at last discovered ought to have been his plan at the beginning of the war.

A general panic seemed to have seized the Prussians; large detachments of the army daily laid down their arms; sometimes with little resistance. General Kalkreuth surrendered with all his troops to Soult on the 15th. On the 17th, Bernadotte encountered an intact body of sixteen thousand men, the reserve of their army, which had never been brought into action, but had taken up a position at Halle, under Prince Eugène of Wirtemberg. They shared the fate of all the rest, being utterly routed with the loss of five thousand men, their artillery and standards.

On the 18th, Erfurt surrendered to Murat, with a hundred and twenty pieces of cannon, immense magazines, and fourteen thousand men, prisoners of

war, among whom were Marshal Möllendorf and the Prince of Orange. The King had escaped to Königsberg; the Queen fled from one city to another before the victors: she was at Stettin on the 19th, and at Küstrin on the 20th.

Napoleon advanced towards Potsdam, and visited the field of Rossbach, where Frederick the Great conquered the French army in 1757. After inspecting the ground, he set his sappers to work, and removed the column erected in commemoration of that victory, which he sent to Paris. It was easily conveyed away, being of very limited dimensions. Marshal Ney was entrusted with the blockade of Magdeburg. The remains of the Prussian army now recrossed the Elbe, and attempted to regain the Oder, near Stettin. Spandau surrendered to Lannes at the first summons, with a large garrison, provisions, and military stores. Napoleon in the meanwhile, with the main army, entered Potsdam. He examined every part of both the palaces, and particularly the apartments of Frederick the Great at Sans-Souci, and reverentially visited his tomb. He nevertheless made prize of the sword, belt, and hat, together with the insignia of the Order of the Black Eagle, which had been worn by that military King, and sent them to Paris, saying, "I had rather possess these than twenty millions."

Napoleon made his triumphal entry into Berlin on the 27th of October, at the head of a grand military procession; scarcely a year having elapsed since he entered Vienna in like manner. He was received

at the splendid gate of Brandenburg by General Hullin, Commandant of the city, who presented the keys to him in the midst of a great multitude of people. The windows of the houses were filled with ladies; but it was observed by the French officers that the profoundest grief was expressed on their countenances, and that many were bathed in tears. The Emperor alighted at the King's palace, and there took up his abode. It has been stated that the apartments of the Queen were scrupulously respected both here and at Potsdam by Napoleon, notwithstanding his excessive irritation against her, and although he indulged in insulting personalities towards her in his official bulletins. But in Berlin, it is said that Napoleon selected the Queen's own chamber for his sleeping apartment, purposely to manifest his contempt for her feelings; and that on the Queen's return from Königsberg, in 1809, she refused to occupy her former apartment on that account.

The wrecks of the Prussian army were meanwhile pursued to their last points of retreat by the French. Prince Hohenlohe, who had fallen back on the Oder with nearly fifty thousand men, was forced to maintain continual combats with his active antagonists; and at length found himself on the 28th of October, on the heights of Prentzlow, without provision, forage, or ammunition, and vigorously pressed by Murat. He had no resource but to capitulate. Nearly twenty thousand Prussians laid down their arms on

that day, not without many signs of pride and passion at their humiliation. The rest of their army, composing the rear-guard, still kept the field, under the command of Blucher, whose name was destined to be known under far different fortunes at a future day. He no sooner received information of the surrender of Prince Hohenlohe, than he made a rapid retreat in the direction of Strelitz, and effected a junction with the Dukes of Weimar and Brunswick-Oels, who still held ten thousand men together. With them he passed the Elbe at Lauenburg, having formed the plan of reinforcing the Prussian garrisons in Lower Saxony; but the skill and the combined movements of Soult, Murat, and Bernadotte counteracted this last desperate effort, and Blucher was forced to throw himself into Lubeck. This place was assaulted by the French, and entered at two points on the 6th of November, but throughout the day and night he maintained a desperate conflict in the streets of the town. Early on the morning of the 7th, finding resistance useless, Blucher and the Prince of Brunswick-Oels treated for a capitulation. They were forced to surrender as prisoners of war. The Prussian army was thus all but annihilated; one corps alone remained in Silesia, where it was held in check by Jerome Buonaparte. At the same time, Louis Buonaparte, the new King of Holland, had conquered with equal ease, Westphalia, Embden, East Friesland, and great part of Hanover.

The sudden destruction of an army hitherto renowned for courage and discipline, was not so extraordinary as the overwhelming panic which seemed to spread throughout every fortified place in Prussia. Strong cities, which had been sufficient to detain enemies before their walls for months, now surrendered one after another at the first summons. Stettin capitulated with a garrison of six thousand men and one hundred and sixty pieces of cannon, to General Lasalle, at the head of a few squadrons. Küstrin opened its gates to Davoust, with scarcely a show of resistance; and, to crown the whole, the important fortress of Magdeburg, with twenty thousand men, eight hundred pieces of cannon, and immense magazines, surrendered to Marshal Ney on the 8th of November.

The Governors of these places were naturally accused of treachery. The students of the University insulted the Commandant of Magdeburg for his pusillanimity, while the French soldiers, sympathizing in their indignation, afforded him very little protection; and the Commandant of Hamelin very narrowly escaped being torn to pieces by his garrison when he surrendered. "The strong mental depression produced by loss of hope, arising from repeated ill-fortune, seems the only imaginable cause for events apparently so unaccountable; for no direct evidence of bribery or corruption is on record." This latter assertion is made by an historian from whose valuable

work many pages are here inserted verbatim;* but an authentic document will be found later in this volume, which is conclusive on the point of treachery and corruption.

The King of Prussia, finding himself stripped of the greater part of his dominions, and seeing much reason to fear the loss of all the rest, sent the Marquis Lucchesini to open a negociation with the French Emperor, in the hope of terminating these disasters by a treaty of peace. Talleyrand arrived at Berlin while the question was in agitation, and conducted the diplomatic business on the part of France.

The ultimatum he sent to the King of Prussia required, in return for the restoration of his conquered dominions, that England should restore the colonies taken from France and its allies; that Russia should desist from assuming the Protectorate of Wallachia and Moldavia, and that the rights of the Ottoman Porte should be restored. It was beyond the power of the King of Prussia to compel his two great allies to subscribe to these conditions; yet it is certain that, without making them parties to a treaty of peace, Napoleon would have only concluded this campaign to commence another in the following season; for the Russians, ninety thousand strong, had advanced into Poland, ready to play over again for Prussia the same game which they had staked for Austria the year before.

* Horn's Life of Napoleon.

A deputation from the French Senate, which arrived at this time, produced excessive irritation in the mind of Napoleon, by recommending peace, while offering congratulations on the splendour of his victories. He replied, that, before they took such a step, they ought to have ascertained on which side the opposition to peace existed, and to have brought with them the means of causing that opposition to cease. This reply was practically enforced by a demand for another conscription, which was eagerly complied with as if to atone for their present presumption. The King of Bavaria and the Elector of Hesse-Cassel were also called upon for their contingents. Troops were stationed in readiness to commence the siege of the few fortresses which yet belonged to Prussia, and every corps of the main army was maintained in a position which ensured its rapid advance into Poland, by the frontiers of Bohemia, at the moment required. The resources of the conquered dominions of Prussia were, at the same time, brought into active operation. Prussia was divided into four departments; of which Berlin, Küstrin, Stettin, and Magdeburg were the chief towns. The ancient sub-divisions and institutions were retained, and the public officers and magistrates were not displaced; but they all took an oath of fidelity to the Emperor Napoleon. An administrator-general of finances and domains, and a receiver-general of taxes, were appointed to superintend the whole. Each department had an imperial commis-

sioner, and each province a French intendant. The whole country was occupied and overawed by the French troops.

Berlin, as a centrical point of operation, was more completely re-organized than any other city. The magistrates there were re-elected to the number of sixty, who were chosen by two thousand burgesses, and a national guard was formed. The regular collection of the revenue, which soon extended over Hesse, Hanover, Brunswick, Mecklenburg, and the Hanse-towns, was felt as a grievous burden by the people in time of war, but was less harassing and ruinous than arbitrary exactions conducted without order. The wants of the army were entirely supplied from this source. The magazines and stores, the clothing and hospital departments were put into the finest condition, and ready for service in a wonderfully short space of time. It was not long before the hostilities, which had been suspended, recommenced. The King of Prussia now refused to treat, saying, "It is no longer time; the matter does not now depend upon me; the Emperor of Russia has offered me support, and into his arms I have thrown myself."

It was at this moment, when the implacable hostility of the Allied Powers was palpably brought before him, that Napoleon published his famous decree, which aimed at entirely shutting the continent against England, and, by crippling the commerce of

the British Isles, directing a deadly blow at their prosperity and power. No serious acts of reprisal towards England had been within the power of Napoleon since the destruction of his fleet at Trafalgar; while the command of the seas gave England continual opportunity of harassing his subjects; and the wealth obtained from the industrious population of that country was lavished with a profuse hand by its Government for that purpose. England, which held paramount command of the seas, had the power of enforcing the law of blockade to any extent. This was exasperating, in the highest degree, to a man of Napoleon's imperious temper. He therefore issued the celebrated Berlin decrees, dated the 21st of November, 1806.

Their effects on the prospects and fortunes of so many English families may justify their insertion in a work intended for English readers. Napoleon thus manifests his implacable enmity to Great Britain.

"Accordingly, we have decreed, and do decree, as follow:—

"1.—The British Islands are declared in a state of blockade.

"2.—All trade and intercourse with the British Islands are prohibited. Consequently, letters or packets addressed to England, or written in the English language, will not be conveyed by post, and will be seized.

"3.—Every native of England, whatever his rank

or condition, who may be found in the countries occupied by our troops, or by those of our allies, shall be made prisoners of war.

"4.—Every warehouse and all merchandize, and property of any description whatever, belonging to an English subject, or the produce of English manufactures or colonies, is declared good prize.

"5.—Trade in English merchandize is prohibited, and all merchandize belonging to England, or the produce of her manufactures and colonies, is declared good prize.

"6.—One half of the produce of the confiscation of the merchandize and property, declared good prize by the preceding articles, will be appropriated to the indemnification of the merchants for losses they have sustained through the capture of trading vessels by English cruisers.

"7.—No vessel coming directly from England or her colonies, or having been there since the publication of the present decree, will be received in any port.

"8.—Any vessel which, by means of a false declaration, shall contravene the above article, shall be seized; and the ship and cargo shall be confiscated as if they were English property."

The first fruits of the determination which had dictated these decrees, became apparent in the formal occupation of the hitherto free town of Hamburg by French troops under Marshal Mortier on the 19th of November. All English property was

confiscated, and the English residents were obliged to make a hurried flight to escape being made prisoners of war. Many now living remember the hardships, and lasting evils entailed on their future lives by that sudden necessity. The merchants in consequence of the troubled aspect of the times, had, in a great measure disposed of their stocks, and wound up their trade before the blow was struck. Monetary interests did not, therefore, suffer so much as was expected.

While employed on the organization of Prussia, Napoleon received a deputation from Poland, praying of him to proclaim the independence of their country, but he did not believe he was at that moment in a position to respond to that appeal.

It may now be well to give a German version of the causes and events which produced such disastrous effects for Prussia. "By the battle of Jena, the whole monarchy was shattered at one blow and fell into fragments. Everything tottered, as if undermined by an earthquake, and the hurricane swept away in its devastating course even the fidelity of those who were believed, until then, to be most loyal and devoted; the debasement of so many minds at the same moment appears incomprehensible. Fortresses fell, as it were, by one magic blow; whole regiments capitulated; one of the finest armies ever collected was dispersed, and the power and grandeur of Prussia were extinct. Of the tactics of Frederick the Great there now remained nothing but the dead letter—

the spirit had long flown. The nation had slumbered on his victorious laurels, and arrogance and presumption had affected all grades, but more particularly the chiefs of the army."

Bishop Eylert says: "At the memorable period of the troops marching from Potsdam in 1806, I remember a colonel saying to me—'It is a scandal for the heroes of Frederick's army to march against the French with guns and swords, cudgels were sufficient to beat them back.' And on my remarking, 'One should not estimate an enemy too meanly,' his presumption became very offensive. No wonder that Napoleon, knowing with whom he had to deal, was confident of victory ere the battle commenced. When surveying the Prussian army and its position from a height, he scornfully cried out—'Ha! ces perruques-là, ils se tromperont furieusement.' After the fatal battle of Jena the most unheard of derelictions of duty ensued; thousands of armed Prussians were seen running away from as many hundred Frenchmen; every pass and military position was abandoned, and even the fortified cities were an easy conquest. Several commandants of fortresses, whose names until then had been mentioned with respect and confidence—men who had been advanced to dignity, loaded with benefits, and endowed with considerable landed possessions—forgot their duty to their King and country. In several instances they were so heedless of the remonstrances of the honest citizens, and the murmurs of an indignant soldiery, as to surrender without

firing a shot, and that, with abundant materials for defence at command. Never was a noble, just, and benevolent Sovereign so egregiously deceived and treated with such black ingratitude; and none ever suffered more from the misconstruction of his upright intentions.

"To the sorrows for the general calamity which the King and Queen endured, were added instances of direct and indirect insults, and these injuries proceeded not only from the overbearing enemy intoxicated by victory, but, most shamefully from their own subjects, and even from some who had been their personal attendants. The victorious Napoleon was to many the *beau ideal* of greatness; and they felt a satanic pleasure in slandering, through the public press, the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, and thus adulating Napoleon. Even John Müller, the celebrated author of the History of Switzerland (surnamed the German Tacitus), threw up the post of Prussian historiographer in Berlin, for an appointment in Cassel, under Jerome Buonaparte, and then penned a dirge on the Prussian monarchy, as if it were extinct. At this epoch a German University, which shall be nameless, presented to Napoleon on behalf of all the faculties, on the occasion of his visit, a superb celestial chart, on which his name was given to one of the stars of the first magnitude."

An official daily paper was printed at Berlin under the inspection of the French ruling power, filled with

ridicule and abuse of the throne and its nearest connexions, especially the Queen. This paper, called the "Telegraph," written in the Jacobinical tone of that period, was intended to alienate the people from their allegiance to their legitimate Sovereign, and to estrange them from their duties. But the people would not allow themselves to be deluded, for there is a light whose radiance is so brilliant, that it will penetrate and illumine the deepest gloom. Before the "Telegraph" appeared, the Queen had been regarded in the same light as a great work of art. The mass of beholders gaze in silent admiration, but only those initiated in the principles of art, presume to criticize or analyze it. She had thus been worshipped at a respectful distance, as a symbol of the celestial on earth; but now this idol was to be dragged from its sanctuary, surrendered to the common gaze, and held up to universal animadversion. The people were required to scan the life of their Queen; but they discovered, on minute examination, the radiance of her virtues; and what had been honoured by them in ignorance was now venerated, and pronounced excellent by the clear evidence of truth. Thus the Queen's blameless life was exposed to the severest scrutiny; but her character was based on such an elevation of moral dignity, that it was above the reach of the shafts of malice.

It is desirable to cite some authorities in support of these assertions, and the following extracts from the bulletins of the French Emperor at that period,

will shew how deeply the Queen's mind must have been agitated by the cruel and unjust accusations levelled especially at her—some of which only are inserted here:

"*Premier Bulletin de la Grande Armée.*

"Bamberg, le 18 Octobre, 1806.

"A cette pièce était jointe la célèbre note de M. Knobelsdorff. 'Maréchal' dit l'Empereur au Maréchal Berthier, 'on nous donne un rendez-vous d'honneur pour le 8; jamais un Français n'y a manqué; mais comme on dit qu'il y a une *belle reine*, qui veut être témoin des combats, soyons courtois, et marchons sans nous coucher pour la Saxe.' L'Empereur avait raison de parler ainsi, car la Reine de Prusse est à l'armée habillée en amazone, portant l'uniforme de son régiment de dragons; écrivant vingt lettres par jour pour exciter de toute part l'incendie. Il semble voir Armide dans son égarement, mettant le feu à son propre palais; après elle, le Prince Louis de Prusse, jeune Prince plein de bravoure et de courage, excité par le parti, croit trouver une grande renommée dans les vicissitudes de la guerre. A l'exemple de ces deux grands personnages, toute la cour crie à la guerre; mais quand la guerre se sera présentée avec toutes ses horreurs, tout le monde s'excusera d'avoir été coupable, et d'avoir attiré la foudre sur les provinces paisibles du nord."

"*Second Bulletin.*

"Auma, 12 Octobre, 1806.

"Voyant ainsi la déroute de ses gens, le Prince Louis de Prusse, en brave et loyal soldat, se prit corps avec un Maréchal de Logis du 10e régiment de hussards. 'Rendez-vous colonel,' lui dit le hussard, 'ou vous êtes mort.' Le Prince lui répondit par un coup de sabre; le Maréchal de Logis riposta par un coup de pointe, et le Prince tomba mort. Si les derniers instans de sa vie ont été ceux d'un mauvais citoyen, sa mort est glorieuse et digne de regrets."

"*Neuvième Bulletin.*

"Weimar, le 17 Octobre, 1806.

"L'Empereur est logé au palais de Weimar, où logeait quelques jours avant la Reine de Prusse. Il paraît ce qu'on a dit d'elle est vrai. Elle était ici pour souffler le feu de la guerre. C'est une femme d'une jolie figure, mais de peu d'esprit, incapable de présager les conséquences de ce qu'elle faisait. Il faut aujourd'hui au lieu de l'accuser, la plaindre, car elle doit avoir bien des remords des maux qu'elle a faits à sa patrie, et de l'ascendant qu'elle a exercé sur le Roi son mari qu'on s'accorde à présenter comme un parfaitement honnête homme qui voulait la paix et le bien de ses peuples."

Treizième Bulletin.

" Wittemberg, le 23 Octobre, 1806.

" L'Empereur, déjà maître de toutes les communications et des magasins de l'ennemi, écrivit le 12 de ce mois la lettre ci-jointe, qu'il envoya au Roi de Prusse par l'officier d'ordonnance Montesquiou. Cet officier arriva le 13, à quatre heures après midi, au quartier du Général Hohenlohe, qui le retint auprès de lui, et qui prit la lettre dont il était porteur. Le camp du Roi de Prusse était à deux lieues en arrière. Ce Prince devrait donc recevoir la lettre de l'Empereur au plus tard à six heures du soir. On assure cependant qu'il ne la reçût que le 14 à neuf heures du matin, c'est à dire lorsque déjà l'on se battait.

" On rapporte aussi que le Roi de Prusse dit alors: 'Si cette lettre était arrivée plus tôt, peut-être aurait-on pu ne pas se battre; mais ces jeunes gens ont la tête tellement montée que s'il eût été question hier de la paix, je n'aurais pas ramené le tiers de mon armée à Berlin.'

" Le Roi de Prusse a eu deux chevaux tués sous lui et a reçu un coup de fusil dans la manche. Au reste, la veille de la bataille, la consternation était déjà dans les chefs; ils reconnaissaient qu'on était mal posté et qu'on allait jouer le vatout de la monarchie. Ils disaient tous—'Eh bien! nous paierons de notre personne.' Ce qui est d'ordinaire le sentiment des hommes qui conservent peu d'espérance. La Reine se trouvait toujours au quartier-

général de Weimar; il a bien fallu lui dire enfin que les circonstances étaient sérieuses, et que le lendemain il pouvait se passer de grands événements pour la monarchie prussienne. Elle voulait que le roi lui dît de s'en aller, et en effet elle fut mise dans le cas de partir."

"*Dix-septième Bulletin.*

"Potsdam, le 23 Octobre, 1806.

"On remarque comme une singularité, que l'Empereur Napoléon est arrivé à Potsdam et descendu dans le même appartement, le jour même et presque àl a même heure que l'Empereur de Russie, lors du voyage que fit ce Prince l'an passé, et qui a été si funeste à la Prusse. C'est de ce moment que la Reine a quitté le soin de ses affaires intérieures et les graves occupations de la toilette pour se mêler des affaires d'état, influencer le Roi, et susciter partout ce feu dont elle était possédée. Le résultat du célèbre serment fait sur le tombeau du grand Frédéric le 4 Novembre, 1805, a été la bataille d'Austerlitz et l'évacuation de l'Allemagne par l'armée russe à journées d'étapes. On fit quarante huit heures après sur ce sujet une gravure qu'on trouve dans toutes les boutiques et qui excite le rire même des paysans. On y voit le *bel Empereur* de Russie, près de lui *la Reine*, et de l'autre coté le Roi qui lève la main sur le tombeau du grand Frédéric; la Reine elle-même drapée d'un châle à peu près

comme les gravures de Londres représentent *Lady Hamilton*, appuie la main sur son cœur et a l'air de regarder l'Empereur de Russie. On ne conçoit point que la police de Berlin ait laissé répandre une aussi pitoyable satire."

"*Dix-neuvième Bulletin.*

"Charlottenburg, le 27 Octobre, 1806.

"Pour donner une idée de l'extrême confusion qui règne dans cette monarchie, il suffit de dire que la Reine, à son retour de ses ridicules et tristes voyages d'Erfurt et de Weimar a passé la nuit à Berlin, sans voir personne; qu'on a été longtemps sans avoir des nouvelles du Roi; que personne n'a pourvu à la sûreté de la capitale, et que les bourgeois ont été obligés de se réunir, pour former un gouvernement provisoire. Tout le monde avoue que *la Reine* est l'auteur des maux que souffre la nation prussienne. On a trouvé dans les appartemens qu'occupait la Reine à Potsdam et à Charlottenburg sa correspondance avec le Roi, pendant trois ans, et des mémoires rédigés par des écrivains anglais pour prouver qu'on ne devait tenir aucun compte des traités conclus avec l'Empereur Napoléon mais se tourner tout-à-fait du côté de la Russie. Ces pièces surtout sont des pièces historiques; elles démontreraient, si cela avait besoin d'une démonstration combien sont malheureux les princes qui laissent prendre aux femmes l'influence sur les affaires

politiques. Les notes, les rapports, les papiers d'état étaient musqués et se trouvaient mêlés avec des chiffons et d'autres objets de la toilette de la Reine. Cette Princesse avait exalté les têtes de toutes les femmes de Berlin; mais aujourd'hui elles ont bien changé; les premiers fuyards ont été mal reçus; on leur a rappelé avec ironie, le jour où ils aiguisaient leurs sabres sur les places de Berlin, voulant tout nier et tout pourfendre.

"Berlin, le 30 Janvier, 1809.

"On lit dans le 'Journal de Paris,' les articles suivants extraits du 'Telegrapher de Berlin:'

"Le Roi de Prusse, avec sa petite cour, continue sa retraite vers le nord. Il est impossible que le séjour de Memel n'ait fait quelqu'impression sur l'esprit des ministres et conseillers de ce Prince. L'aspect seul de cette ville a dû réveiller en eux des souvenirs amers et les amener à d'utiles réflexions. C'est à Memel qu'eut lieu la première entrevue entre l'Empereur de Russie et le Monarque Prussien. Le voyage de Berlin, le serment sur la tombe du grand Frédéric, la frénésie guerrière, la ruine de la monarchie, tout se rattache à cette déplorable entrevue de Memel. Mais heureusement pour l'un et pour l'autre, il est très douteux qu'il soit au pouvoir de l'Empereur Alexandre de s'éloigner de sa capitale."

In the meanwhile the King and Queen had arrived by way of Graudenz and Ortelsburg at

Wehlau. The King was anxious to collect the scattered remains of his army, to procure reinforcements, and to await the arrival of the Emperor Alexander. He was resolved to continue the war, and had not accepted the preliminary conditions for a treaty of peace which had been offered him by the conqueror after the capture of Berlin. What took place in the capital could not be a matter of indifference to the King and Queen, and could not escape their notice. The "Telegraph" newspaper therefore reached them. A sensitive mind will readily conceive the sorrow which it caused the Queen; for there is no greater grief to a feeling heart, than to be misunderstood by those it loves, and this she feared would be the result of such misrepresentations. She now beheld falsehood and malignity triumphant; and as she was dragged forth from her own sphere, she began to reflect whether there really was anything in her, similar to what they wished to make her appear in the world; but whilst she scrutinized her intentions, and reflected on the actions of her past life, she felt herself elevated above the shafts of malignity.

In the meanwhile, the concurrence of unhappy circumstances increased, and a state of misery ensued, which overwhelmed the Queen with wretchedness. Her hopes, which had been so cruelly deceived, the calamities which her people had to endure—all that had occurred in that brief space of time—appeared to her then to be under the direct influence of the

darker powers;—a gloomy fatality, which had overshadowed the whole country, and especially her own household. Thus for a moment a doubt came over the pious mind of the Queen, whether all that had happened was decreed by some higher power, or was the effects of an evil destiny, she even doubted herself, and whether that which she had esteemed right and just until now, was so in reality. In these afflicting moments of depression, she remembered that touching song of Goëthe's, in his "Wilhelm Meister,"—

Wer nie sein Brod mit Thränen asz.

and she wrote them in her journal. The translation may be acceptable:—

"Who never ate his bread in sorrow,
Who never spent the darksome hours,
Weeping and watching for to-morrow—
He knows ye not, ye gloomy powers.
To earth—this weary earth—ye bring us;
To guilt ye let us heedless go;
Then leave repentance fierce to wring us—
A moment's guilt, an age's woe."

Ortelsburg, Dec. 5th, 1806.

In the month of December, their Majesties came to Königsberg; all the news which they received from the different provinces was most distressing. So many calamities affected the Queen's health; she had a nervous fever, which for fourteen days placed her life in the most imminent

danger. She was only beginning to amend when the actions of Pultusk and Volhynia, and then battle of Soldau, caused the approach of the French troops to Königsberg, and it was no longer safe to leave her there. In a gloomy damp day, at the end of December, she was obliged to be placed in a bed in her carriage, submitting without a murmur to that fate which seemed to her as inexorable as immutable. The journey, however, which was in itself so painful and difficult, at the moment, produced beneficial effects, for the Queen recovered more speedily than might have been reasonably expected. The King, with the royal children and Princesses of the family, soon followed the Queen to Memel, where they patiently awaited the dawn of brighter days.

It was a time of universal depression; but the King, supported by the counsels of von Stein, and the holy confidence of the ecclesiastic Borowsky, saw in the character of passing events the symbols of a happier future. One bright star still remained above the horizon, silently heralding the approach of better times. This star was the unchangeable attachment, loyalty, and devotion of the people to their rightful Sovereign. Under the word people is to be understood, though not exclusively, the respectable class of citizen, yeoman and peasant, which in its compact mass, constitutes the fundamental strength of a country. All wise rulers, such as Frederick the Great, have endeavoured to possess the good-will and

confidence of that class, by making their advancement and welfare a main object. Notwithstanding their sufferings from 1806 to 1810, the people never wavered in their loyalty to the King; never did they lose their firm belief in the return of happier times, but remained staunch and devoted under all circumstances; this was known to the King by a thousand secret and authentic channels, and it consoled him, when the torrent of venomous libels poured in and caused so much distress to his harassed mind.

The most false and daring libels were contained in a publication called "Confidential Letters," and a periodical entitled the "Firebrand." The public voice (perhaps unjustly) accused Colonel von Massenbach of being the author of the latter publication. Colonel von Massenbach was undoubtedly an intelligent man, but brought up in the school of Frederick the Great, he was, like his colleague, General von Rüchel, an enthusiastic admirer of that monarch. Nothing was right in his eyes save what had emanated from that hero, and his object was to preserve every thing in the same form as it had existed in the time of Frederick the Great. He was one of the general staff, and as a matter of course, the rigid military discipline of bygone times was retained as a sacred obligation; but soon the fearful discovery was made that the battle-field of Jena was something very different from a parade in the Lustgarten at Potsdam.

Massenbach's moral courage gave way; this hitherto courageous man fled from the enemy; and at Prentzlow, he cowardly surrendered the large *corps d'armée* he commanded to an inferior French force. He now went from one extreme to the other, and found in the great Napoleon his long-worshipped Frederick, honouring him as the renovator of a diseased and, as he called it, "a rotten state of things." His former love for the Prussian State changed to antipathy. He did not follow the King to Königsberg, but returned to Potsdam, and dipped his pen in gall to revile his royal master *.

* It anticipates the order of events to mention the ultimate fate of this man; but it may be stated here that, after the restoration of the Prussian Government, he wrote, with his usual acerbity, "Memoirs of Frederick William III., containing Anecdotes of his Person, House, and Court." In that disgraceful work he poured out the vials of his wrath in slanderous anecdotes relative to the King; and even dared to attack the pure character and spotless life of Queen Louisa. Most inexplicably he sent this calumnious manuscript to the King, with a notice, "that he proposed having it printed and published; but that being in want of money, he would destroy the work, provided he received a larger sum for it than he had been offered by a publisher in Tübingen." If Massenbach, calculating on the King's forbearance, which he had often experienced, expected his Majesty would accede to such a proposition, he judged erroneously; for he ought to have known that there are attacks and insults which even the noblest minds cannot forgive.

In this instance the King remained, as ever, true to his mild and benevolent character; and refraining from any pre-

At Memel, the soldiers were collected who had escaped the sword of the enemy, or had been released from captivity. Great was the struggle at that period to re-establish the army, and to lead it once more against Napoleon. Hopes were entertained, which illumined for a moment the gloomy horizon, for the King had received, by various means, the most touching proofs of attachment from the many provinces of the kingdom possessed by the enemy. The Queen soon found that the inhabitants of Berlin, very far from doing willing homage to the power of France, as had been asserted, were, on the contrary, devoted to the King, and awaited with impatience assistance from him. The erroneous ideas which had arisen on the arrival of the conqueror, of his predo-

cipitate or angry demonstration of power, which in this case would have been almost justifiable, he sent the libel to the Minister of War, with this remark, "that inasmuch as he, together with his deceased consort, and the whole of the royal house, had been grossly slandered, he would abstain from giving judgment himself on an affair so personal; but required that a strict and impartial examination should be instituted, and the result laid before him." The Court-martial sat, and the unanimous verdict was, "That the Colonel von Massenbach is by law, and by this Court, adjudged guilty of treason, and is condemned to imprisonment for life in a fortress." Massenbach, who was then at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, was, after the necessary legal procedure, arrested, and conveyed to the fortress of Glatz. The King afterwards mitigated the penalty to a limited period.

minating motives being for the general welfare had already vanished.

It was apparent that the greater and unconstrained part of the nation was loyal; and the corroborated assurance, that the inhabitants of Berlin remained devoted to their Sovereign was especially consoling to the Queen, who from that period regarded them with increased partiality. As their Majesties became better acquainted with the inhabitants of Prussia and Lithuania, they were more deeply sensible of their many proofs of fidelity and attachment. Amongst these people they were considered as a honoured father and a beloved mother, surrounded by children who loved them with filial affection, whilst they obeyed and honoured them as their legitimate rulers.

Preparations were now sufficiently advanced for the Prussian troops to join the Russian army, which was preparing to give battle to the enemy. The former Russian Commander-in-Chief had been succeeded by Beningsen, a General of ability. He wisely conceived that the desire to station himself in winter-quarters, evinced by Napoleon, ought to be a signal to the Russians to take the field. The situation also of the King of Prussia was an inducement to active measures. He was cooped up in Königsberg; and his remaining fortresses only contrived to hold out, because the rigour of the season did not permit trenches to be opened before them. Dantzic was

invested, and must inevitably yield before the spring, unless relieved. Graudentz, the key of the Vistula, was on the point of surrendering.

Sharp actions, with considerable loss, occurred as the French army advanced; and the Russians, falling back before it, passed through the town of Eylau, and stationed themselves on the heights which command it. Napoleon reached Eylau on the evening of the 7th with Augereau's division. Beningsen sent a strong detachment to dispossess him; but, after a severe action, he retained his position for the night. On the morning of the 8th, he found himself in the presence of the whole Russian army, strongly intrenched in a commanding position. He was vigorously attacked soon after day-break. His different corps which arrived throughout the day were brought into action as they came up. Beningsen began the attack with a tremendous fire of artillery, directed upon the town of Eylau. Napoleon brought forward his guard, with forty pieces of cannon, and returned the murderous fire with one equally deadly, which he directed himself. He was exposed to extreme danger, but the circumstances were grave and perilous, and such as invariably made him regardless of personal risk. The carnage on both sides was dreadful; but both maintained their ground with obstinacy.

Beningsen reckoning upon the tremendous force of his artillery, next attempted to manœuvre by his right, and take the town of Eylau, but met with a desperate resistance which arrested his columns.

Napoleon was on the top of the church, amidst a shower of grape-shot and balls. About noon there was a fall of snow, so thick as to obscure the atmosphere. The horrors of the fight were increased by this new circumstance, which suddenly brought the confusion of night into the midst of day. Whole battalions, in consequence, rushed unconsciously into destruction. Augereau advancing to attack the Russians, missed his direction and found himself suddenly engaged face to face with their right wing. His division was literally cut to pieces, and he himself carried from the field desperately wounded.

Napoleon instantly sent Murat and Bessières with seventy squadrons of cavalry, to charge the centre of the line. The tremendous shock overwhelmed the Russian cavalry; and two lines of their infantry were cut to pieces: their artillery was abandoned, and they suffered horrible carnage. Their third line rallied, advanced upon the French position, and, like Augereau's division, losing their way in the thick falling snow, became entangled in the church-yard of Eylau. The imperial guard rushed upon them in front; Murat charged in their rear, and four thousand men perished in that church-yard, their stiffened bodies, half buried in snow, mingled with the emblems of mortality around, and were scarcely distinguishable from the mounds of earth which marked the graves of the dead who had gone before them. The battle, with alternating fortune, continued throughout the day; and night-fall found the two armies in their

original positions. The Prussian corps had come up to re-inforce the Russians; but Ney had joined the French. The point of superiority on this dreadful day would have been hard to decide; but the victory, if claimed by either party, must be pronounced to have remained with Napoleon; for Beningsen retreated in the night, and left him master of the field of battle, where he slept and remained for eight days. It was a ghastly triumph. Twenty (some accounts say fifty) thousand dead and as many wounded, lay on the blood-stained snow, mingled with nearly four thousand horses, killed in the desperate charges of the cavalry, scattered arms, balls, and all the hideous and horrible remains of mortal strife. The air was filled with piteous and appalling sounds; the watch-fires shot a pale gleam across the frozen lakes in front of the town, which reflected back the light over the ghastly scene. The rigid trunks of trees stood formless, in their crusted coverings of frost and snow, in the dull moonlight, while around them lay the equally rigid and frosted trunks of the formless slain, distinguishable only by the horrible consciousness of the beholder. The silence of the night was occasionally broken by the screams of the carrion-birds.

Napoleon had been exposed throughout the day to the extremity of danger, but had escaped unhurt. During the whole time the battle lasted, his countenance was never observed to change, nor did he show any emotion whatever; but all accounts agree

that he was deeply impressed with the horrors of the succeeding night, and his letters shew that its recollection weighed on his mind and spirits for a long period. Every attention that it was possible to bestow, was shown to the wounded, both French and Russian; but eight-and-forty hours after the battle, five thousand wounded Russians still lay on the ground. Bread and spirits were carried to them from time to time; and all that survived were soon transported to the hospitals, where every provision that had been so elaborately made was brought into requisition.

Beningsen retreated upon Königsberg; and Napoleon, after eight days of inactivity, also retreated upon the Vistula, and established his head-quarters at Osterode. The doubtful issue of the battle of Eylau had given a shock to public opinion, which it required all his prudence and address to overcome. He occupied himself in making his army secure in its cantonments; and, among his other cares, that of the wounded was one of the principal. As he went among the sufferers, to see that they were properly attended, counting their scars and encouraging them by his words, they forgot their hardships and sufferings, and regarded him with a degree of affection difficult to describe. The battle of Eylau, the most sanguinary with regard to the numbers engaged, which occurred during the Empire, was productive of no result to the progress of the war. Both parties retreated to

their original positions; the Russians to Königsberg, the French to the line of the Vistula; each with an army seriously reduced in numbers.

The small division of the Prussian army, which took part in the actions of Mohringen and Eylau and saved the latter, was neither deficient in bravery nor skill; and it would be easy to cite many brilliant proofs of courage in these battles. Although the victory was undecided, it proved to the French Emperor the bravery of the Prussian troops; and his losses were so severe, that he appeared anxious to treat for a peace with Prussia. The King might have obtained advantageous conditions if he would have abandoned his friend and ally, the Emperor Alexander; but his just and upright character would not admit of his thus deserting a friend.

After the battle of Eylau, Napoleon permitted his troops to repose in their quarters whilst he was busied at Finkenstein in securing his own power throughout Europe, and especially in Germany. Several German Princes joined the Confederation of the Rhine, and thereby strengthened the powers of France. In the meantime, the Emperor Alexander arrived, inspired his army with fresh ardour, and preparations were made for a new campaign. The King joined him at his head-quarters at Bartenstein. The Queen during this period was at Königsberg, where she had collected around her those who entertained a ray of hope for better times, and who were united by common interest. During this short

sojourn in Königsberg, she received additional proofs of the attachment of the people; and those ties were formed, which in a later and more prolonged stay, endeared them to each other.

It was at this time that she became acquainted with that excellent old man, Scheffner, and also with the worthy President of the Ecclesiastical Court, Borowsky, whose christian disposition and simple manner of life interested the Queen. She freely spoke to him on moral and religious topics as well as with Scheffner, whose zeal for all that was good and beautiful, and whose varied information was an agreeable relaxation to her anxious mind. Scheffner was often sent for to read aloud to the Queen, and was requested by her to make her acquainted with the most remarkable productions of modern literature. A conspicuous quality of his upright character was his candour. Truth with him predominated over every other consideration, and this strengthened her confidence in the worthy old man whom she continued to esteem most highly to the close of her existence. Amongst those who were most frequently about the person of the Queen at Königsberg may be mentioned the Countess Dohna von Finkenstein, who was greatly respected on account of her ardent patriotism. The Queen was wont to call her, with reference to her four sons, a Spartan mother; for although her maternal affection for her sons, who had already bled for their country, could not be doubted, she encouraged their fervent desire again to fight for their fatherland, and

used to declare "that the lives of her four sons were far less dear to her than the safety and honour of her country."

The Queen was deeply affected during her stay in Königsberg by the sight of the wounded soldiers who were collected there; and those who distinguished themselves by their care and attention to these brave men were highly esteemed by her. How would her noble heart have expanded could she have foreseen the extent of that charity with which at a later period the best of her sex devoted themselves to this hallowed vocation! In Prussia, those who have risked their lives in the holy cause of liberty, and received honourable wounds in the service of their country, are now no longer confided to the mere hireling, but find mothers and sisters in their attentive nurses. Berlin was the first to set an example to the rest of Germany, by forming an association of ladies for this purpose. At this time the battalions of reserve were formed, which marched shortly after to the frontiers for the defence of their country.

Field-Marshal Blucher was destined for Pomerania, there to commence fresh military operations. The Queen availed herself of this opportunity to write once more unreservedly to her father, as all communication (especially with the other side of the Weichsel) was so uncertain. This memorable letter, as well as another which she wrote at a later period from Memel, and which will be found in its place, are such faithful pictures of her feelings, that they must be interesting

to those who venerate her memory. She wrote from Königsberg the 15th of May, 1807 :—

"Beloved Father,

"The departure of General Blucher gives me, thank God, a safe opportunity once more of writing unreservedly to you. Heavens! how long this happiness has been denied me, and how much have I to say to you. Since the third week of my illness, every day has been distinguished by a new misfortune . . . .

"The expedition of the excellent Blucher to Pomerania, the patriotism which is now aroused in every bosom, and by which the battalions of reserve have been organized during the last month, are new demonstrations of loyalty that inspire me with fresh hopes. Yes! best of fathers I am persuaded that all will be well once more, and that we shall meet again in happiness. The siege of Dantzic goes on well; the inhabitants behave admirably; they lighten the fatigue of the soldiers whilst they supply them with wine and meat in abundance; they will not hear of surrender; they prefer being buried under the shot, rather than betray their King. Colberg and Graudenz hold out in the same way; ah! if all the garrisons had acted thus! But enough of past troubles; let us turn our thoughts towards God, to Him who rules our destiny, who never forsakes us if we do not forsake Him. The King is with the Emperor Alexander and the army; he will remain as long as the Emperor stays. This glorious unity, founded on such unshaken constancy in mis-

fortune, gives the brightest hopes of its continuance. By perseverance only can we succeed;—sooner or later I am persuaded we shall do so.

"LOUISA."

The siege of Dantzic was vigorously pressed. It was bravely defended by General Kalkreuth, one of the old Prussian Generals of Frederick's time. The great importance of the place caused the most vigorous efforts to be made to relieve it. A large body of Prussian troops, who were sent by sea on the 15th of May, were repulsed with great loss, and obliged to escape with precipitation by means of their boats, the besiegers having been re-inforced by the divisions of Lannes and Oudinot. General Kalkreuth found himself under the necessity of capitulating on the 21st; and thus Dantzic, the great military port of the Baltic, with eight hundred pieces of cannon and immense stores fell into the hands of Napoleon. Marshal Lefebvre received the title of Duke of Dantzic, in commemoration of his important success.

Thus the hopes which the Queen had entertained, and which gave new life to her existence, were of short duration; and now other and greater evils were in store. The French Emperor had considerably augmented his military forces. The two most important fortresses of Prussia which had honourably held out until now, Neisze and Dantzic, on which so many hopes had rested, had fallen. All the

movements of the French army seemed to indicate further hostility. Fears were entertained for Königsberg, and the Queen returned in the early part of June to Memel, where she was re-united to her children, who, as her absence had been of short duration, had remained in that place. She expressed great satisfaction in this re-union, for since the fall of Dantzic, the daily accession of new misfortunes had filled her mind with mournful anticipations. Some hope was temporarily excited by the advantages which the combined armies of Russia and Prussia obtained at Spandau, Sormitten, and Guttstadt; but this short interval of re-awakened confidence was speedily destroyed, and the fatal battle of Friedland terminated all hope of farther resistance.

No studied description can convey the horrible realities of a battle so completely as the literal account given by Savary of this victory. He says:—

"Not one of our cannon balls missed its aim, and the Russian squares were demolished one after another. About six in the evening the Emperor assailed them with a fire of musketry. This was the finishing stroke. Their masses were so completely deranged that nothing like order was observable in their dispositions; and an instinct natural to man, impelled all who formed part of the wreck to seek safety by flight across the bridge. They were, however, obliged to renounce the attempt, owing to the dreadful carnage caused by the firing

of our artillery in that direction. They then threw themselves pell-mell into the river, without ascertaining whether it was fordable. Numbers encumbered with the heavy accoutrements of all Russian soldiers were drowned; but others discovered a ford in front of our left. Nothing could now check their flight; and they hurried towards the point of escape in utter disorder, like a flock of sheep.

"Night drew on," continues Savary, "and the firing ceased. Our army reposed in the position in which it had fought. The Emperor also passed this night in bivouac; and next morning, at daybreak, he was on horseback inspecting the lines. The men were still sleeping, and had suffered immense fatigue. The Emperor would not allow any of them to be disturbed for the purpose of being drawn out under arms, in honour of his presence, as was customary. He next proceeded to the Russian field of battle. Here a frightful spectacle presented itself. The order of the Russian squares could be traced by the lines of slain, and the position of their artillery might be guessed by the dead horses. Sovereigns ought to have the greatest interest of their subjects at stake to justify such dreadful sacrifices. For even a soldier becomes a moralist on such occasions.

"Marshal Soult's division took possession of Königsberg on the 16th. The two fugitive monarchs were already on their way to Tilsit; Napoleon with the rest of his army pressing hard upon their track.

His light cavalry reached Tilsit on the 19th, whilst the bridge by which Alexander and Frederick William had passed to the right bank of the Niemen was still burning. As the French army approached the last barrier which separated it from the dominions of Alexander, the impatience of Napoleon became uncontrollable. He gave the reins to his horse, and outstripping his staff, traversed alone the great plains that surround Tilsit, and did not stop till he came in sight of the Niemen."

The battle of Friedland was in its results a second battle of Auerstadt. Napoleon transferred his head-quarters to Tilsit, on the borders of the Niemen, which the Emperor Alexander was obliged to evacuate. At this time the Queen wrote the following letter to her father:—

"Memel, 17th June, 1807.

"With the most heartfelt emotion, and in tears of the most grateful affection, I have read your letter of the 14th April. How shall I thank you, my most tender father, for the many proofs of your love, your favour, your inexpressible paternal goodness? What a consolation, and what a support they are to me in my troubles! When one is so tenderly beloved, one cannot be entirely wretched. New and enormous burdens are imposed upon us again, and we are on the eve of being forced to quit the kingdom. Think what this will be for me! Still in the name of God, I conjure you, mistake not your daughter. It is not

pusillanimity that humbles me: there are two fundamental reasons which elevate me above all extraneous circumstances. The first is, the idea that we are not the sport of blind chance, but are in the hands of God; the other, that we fall with honour. The King has proved to the world that he desired honour alone, and did not merit ignominy. Not a single step could he have taken otherwise than he has done, without being false to his own character and the betrayer of his people. What a support this is, those only can comprehend who are penetrated by truly honourable feelings. But to the point. By the loss of the unfortunate battle of Friedland, Königsberg fell into the hands of the French. We are pressed by the enemy, and if the danger approaches somewhat nearer, I shall be obliged to quit Memel with my children. The King will join the Emperor again. I shall go, as soon as urgent danger is apparent, to Riga. God will give me strength to endure the moment, when I shall be forced to quit the kingdom. Then strength will be, indeed, required; but I lift my eyes to the Almighty, whence all good descends, and by whose inscrutable decrees evil is permitted; and my firm belief is, that he will send no more than we are able to bear. Once more, best of fathers, we fall with honour, respected and esteemed by nations, and shall have constant friends, because we deserve them. How much this idea consoles, I cannot express to you. I bear all with that calm composure which only a tranquil conscience

and a firm reliance can give; therefore be assured, best of fathers, that we cannot be completely unhappy; and that many burthened with crowns and the gifts of fortune, are not so cheerful as we are. God sends peace of mind to the good, and in that they will always find a source of joy. Once more, for your consolation—nothing will ever occur on our parts which is not compatible with the strictest honour, and which is not thoroughly consistent with the welfare of all. Do not think we are individually miserable; this will, I know, console you, as well as all those who belong to me. I am ever your sincere, obedient, and affectionate daughter—and, thank God, I can say (as your paternal kindness permits me to do so) your friend,

"LOUISA."

"Memel, 24th June, 1807.

"My letters yet remain here; for not only contrary winds, but storms have rendered the sailing of any vessel impossible. I send a safe person to you now, and continue my communications from this place. The army has been obliged to retire, and there is a cessation of hostility, for a truce has been concluded of four weeks. The weather often clears up when it appears most threatening: it may be so in this case. None can desire it more than I; but wishes are but wishes, and there is no foundation for them. Yet all comes from above. Almighty Father of all goodness! my faith shall not waver, but I can

hope no longer. I refer to my letter—it is written from the depths of my soul. You know me when you read it, my best of fathers. To live and die in the ways of righteousness, and if it must be so, to live on bread and salt, will never make me utterly wretched; but I can hope no more. Those who have been thus hurled from their earthly paradise, can hope no longer. If good should arise, oh! none can receive it more thankfully than I; but I do not expect it. When misfortune occurs, it may for the moment embarrass, but it cannot humiliate me, so long as it is undeserved. Wrong and injustice on our side would have brought me to the grave, whither I shall not descend in disgrace, for we stand high. You see then, my dearest father, that the enemy of mankind has no power over me. The King joined the Emperor on the 19th. Since yesterday they have been in Taurogen, only a few miles from Tilsit, where the French Emperor now is. I am at your feet—wholly your's,

"LOUISA."

The general aspect of affairs was now deplorable throughout Prussia; the last fortified town was hard pressed; Pillau was besieged, and here the effects of treachery were clearly proved, by the official despatches to the Admiralty of a distinguished English officer employed in the British service on the scene of action, during the year 1807.

I am indebted to him for permission to insert some extracts from his despatches. As they also throw light on the forlorn state of affairs at that period, which so deeply affected the Queen's health and spirits, they are inserted here :—

"H. M. Cutter Favourite,
"15th June, 1807.

"Sir,

"I embrace the earliest opportunity of informing their Lordships that Königsberg is in the hands of the enemy.

* * * *

"I did not leave the town until 2 o'clock on the 13th instant. The armies were then engaged, and the enemy so close to the works, that their shot were falling into the town; and I fear from the number there appeared in the field of killed and wounded, the loss on the part of the combined forces must have been considerable: that on the part of the French must have been very great, as they were much exposed to the fire from the garrison in advancing. I should have remained in the town in order to have gained further information, but having been informed that a party of French infantry had crossed the river between Holstein and Königsberg, in order to cut off the communication, I made my escape on horseback, and passed within a quarter of a mile a little to the right of them.

* * * *

"I have seen letters from Dantzic of the 10th

instant, which mention the contributions levied on the unfortunate inhabitants, to amount to one million sterling, and that six hundred French seamen had arrived there, and were employed fitting out His Majesty's late ship Dauntless, and also four merchant ships, which are to mount from twenty-six to thirty guns each.

"The French must have gained very material supplies at Königsberg, as no precautions had been taken to remove the provisions and stores prior to their marching in.

"The subjoined is the translation of part of a letter from the Governor of Königsberg, General Riichel, to the Commandant of Pillau, which will in some measure point out to their Lordships the present position of affairs in Prussia.

"I have the honour, &c.

"A. GREEN.

"To W. Marsden, Esq.
&c. &c."

TRANSLATION.

"The two officers at Pillau are to defend the place to the last extremity. The last fortress in Prussia is now in your hands, and it is expected you will defend it bravely. With this view you are given the power of life and death, which it is desired may be used with the utmost rigour towards all whose conduct may deserve it. You will draw all fresh provisions from the neighbouring country, giving receipts for

them in the best manner you can; they will be paid for one day or other. Although Prussia may be lost, still it will not cease to be a kingdom.

"From General Rüchel (Governor-General of Prussia)
"To the Commandant of Pillau.
15th June, 1807."

"H. M. Cutter Favourite,
"Memel Roads, 21st June, 1807.

"Sir,

"Since my last of the 15th, I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the enemy have commenced the siege of Pillau, and that on the 18th, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, they commenced firing on the town and fortress, which did not continue more than two hours, when an officer was sent in to know if they would capitulate; he was answered in the negative. This attack was made from the side towards Königsberg. On the 19th, a general officer arrived with a similar summons, which was also rejected, but an armistice was agreed upon until an answer should arrive from the King, to know if they were to defend the garrison, and to what extent. As they had no certain mode of conveying information to the King of Prussia, I, at the request of the Governor, brought the dispatch to this place (Memel). A number of neutral vessels were lying at Pillau, loaded with provisions, bound for Königsberg. Immediately on gaining authentic information that the above place was in the hands of the enemy, I waited on the

Governor, and requested he would order them thence directly, or declare Königsberg in a state of blockade, and send the small armed vessels he had on the Haff to prevent them from disposing of their cargoes to the French. He promised to send them from this anchorage, and declared he had given orders to that effect prior to my going on board that evening; but finding on the following morning those orders were not put into execution, I judged it necessary to write him a letter on the subject which I hope will meet their Lordships' approbation.

* * * * *

"A circumstance happened during the attack on Pillau on the 18th instant, which will prove to their Lordships the treachery that exists in the garrison towns of Prussia. I was standing by the Governor, when an officer arrived with his hands full of musket ball-cartridges filled with fine sand instead of powder, which he had taken out of the cartouch-boxes of the soldiers who were then defending the pallisades in front of the town.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of their Lordships' additional instructions of the 26th ultimo, and shall use every endeavour to fulfil them.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"A. GREEN.

"To W. Marsden, Esq.
&c. &c."

The conclusion of the truce was followed by an

interview between Alexander and Napoleon, and afterwards with the King. Negotiations for peace were commenced, and the head-quarters of both the Emperor Alexander and the King were transferred to Tilsit; so that the head-quarters of the three powers were in the same town.

"The unfortunate King of Prussia, a King without a kingdom, arrived at Tilsit on the 28th. Napoleon did not admit him to that feeling of equality on which he associated with the Emperor Alexander, and did not conceal that whatever portion of his territories were returned to him, he would owe to the intercession of his more powerful ally.

The upright character of the King revolted at the abuse of power which was displayed by the French Emperor, with such insulting arrogance; and it aroused that noble pride which so well becomes the unfortunate. It was impossible for him to do homage to the Emperor, who was accustomed to every species of flattery. Napoleon was offended at this, and he did not conceal his displeasure.

Under these circumstances, it was supposed by those about the King, that the Queen's appearance at head-quarters might facilitate the negociations, and procure less disadvantageous conditions of peace. Her presence was requested. She came with the resignation of a pious mind, which in every situation strives to fulfil its duties.

An ordinary woman would have fancied it beneath her dignity to appear as a petitioner in the presence

of a man who had personally insulted her; but the Queen, by the purity and elevation of her character, had a right to imagine that her first glance would disarm her enemy, and convince him that he had misunderstood her character. In her sweet disposition the idea could not exist that there are people who aggravate their offences in proportion as they are wanting in magnanimity to repair their injustice. It was impossible for her to foresee that her journey to Tilsit would be ineffectual. The Queen could not be degraded by interceding for her people. Painful as the effort must have been, her love and zeal for those she hoped to benefit, overcame her disinclination for the interview. She thus expresses her feelings in her journal:—

"What this costs me my God alone knows; for if I do not positively hate this man, I look upon him as a man who has rendered the King and the whole nation miserable. His talents I certainly admire, but his character, which is manifestly deceitful and false, I cannot endure. To be courteous and complaisant to him will be most difficult for me; but this difficulty is required of me; and I am already accustomed to make sacrifices."

Napoleon's letter to Josephine, hereafter inserted, on this subject, affords a curious contrast to this touching record of the Queen's feelings. The celebrated interview between this high-minded woman and the man who had so outraged her best feelings by

every species of insult and calumny he could invent, not only to injure her in the minds of her subjects, but to blacken her spotless reputation in the eyes of all Europe, has been variously related. The mortifying conditions attached to the Peace of Tilsit, the shameful spoliation of Prussia, insisted upon by the conqueror, which nearly involved the loss of one half of the King's hereditary dominions, prompted the self-sacrifice of her own personal feelings, and induced her to accede to the proposal of an interview with her professed personal enemy.

The Emperor Napoleon desired this meeting partly to gratify his inordinate pride and ambition by shewing himself in the character of a dictator of sovereigns, and partly from curiosity to see the most graceful and beautiful woman of the age.

Those who were aware of her exquisite loveliness and who feared the effect it might produce on the temperament of Napoleon (who was known to be not insensible to female charms) especially the crafty and politic Talleyrand, sought to prevent the interview by suggesting every species of obstacle, but in vain.

In order to veil the real position of the respective parties, and to break the natural constraint which would be apparent in this interview, the Emperor, who loved pomp and parade in everything, affected to honour the Queen by sending for her a very splendid state carriage drawn by eight horses; and a very numerous

and brilliant escort of his Dragoon Guards were appointed to escort her and the King to head-quarters.

This pompous demonstration of respect was peculiarly dissonant to the feelings of the King, who was remarkable for his simple habits; never using four horses when two could accomplish the purpose equally well. He disliked all display, and never sought to attract attention in any way. As the King was therefore unusually grave and reserved, the Queen had a more difficult part to sustain.

She was, however, as usual calm and self-possessed; and with that innate tact so natural to her, she avoided the outward demonstrations of all inimical feelings.

As soon as she had taken possession of the apartments that had been prepared for her, the French Emperor paid her a visit. To sustain with calm dignity the first moments of the interview, was in the Queen's position no easy task. With great nicety of discrimination, and the most delicate tact which a noble mind only possesses, she received the French Emperor politely, regretting that he was obliged to ascend such a bad staircase, and inquired if the northern climate agreed with his health during the winter. He seemed surprised at the dignified demeanour of the King, and astonished at the exquisite beauty of the Queen, which far surpassed his expectations. He made many very flattering speeches, which were intended especially for the Queen. She

however passed lightly over these expressions of personal admiration, and adroitly turned the conversation to general subjects; but Napoleon was by no means at his ease. Whilst he spoke he was swinging his whip backwards and forwards, and said, turning suddenly to the King, "Sire, I admire the magnanimity and tranquillity of your soul amidst such numerous and heavy misfortunes." The King replied slowly and steadily, "Greatness and tranquillity of soul can only be acquired by the strength of a good conscience." Whether the Emperor was offended by the tone and manner of the King, which piqued his proud nature, or whether his ordinary rudeness prompted him to make a rough reply, he suddenly exclaimed, "But how could you begin a war with me, who had already conquered so many powerful nations?" The King, well-knowing that this question would lead to many others that must cause long and useless discussions, looked at him stedfastly and severely, but made no answer. The Queen replied, "Sire, it was permitted to the glory of the Great Frederick, to deceive us as to the extent of our powers; we were deceived; but it was so ordained." She then endeavoured to turn the conversation into other channels. Somewhat later, she mentioned the object of her journey, and that she hoped to induce him to grant moderate terms for a treaty of peace with Prussia. The sequel has shown how this declaration was received. The French Emperor had no feeling of chivalrous honour;

that quality was utterly wanting in him, and thus the intercession of a noble woman, for a noble purpose, was fruitless. It would be difficult to make a selection from the various questions the French Emperor asked, and the topics which he suggested, during this interview, with the evident design of creating embarrassment to the Queen.

What constraint must have been felt by all who were present at this meeting! The Conqueror and Dictator, who had driven the legitimate Sovereigns to the remotest point of their dominions, now invited them as his guests. Perhaps history does not furnish a more singular and trying position than that to which the unfortunate Sovereigns were reduced on this occasion, in striving to conciliate their mortal enemy. Napoleon gave a sumptuous banquet, at which the King sat as the guest of the Emperor Napoleon, at his left hand; the Queen being seated on the right. The King, grave and reserved, said little, but what he did say, was appropriate and correct, without any political allusions, at least not obviously apparent. The conversation turned on the recollections of youth, and the King used the word "cradle." Napoleon smiled in his own peculiar way, and made the remark, "But when the child is grown up into manhood, he forgets the cradle." "Yes," answered the King, "but our origin and our associations we cannot forget; and the good man contemplates with feelings of gratitude the cradle in which he lay as a child." Those who were present, and

observed the King at this moment, remarked that there was something peculiarly significant in the tone in which he uttered this speech;—he appeared apparently reflecting in sadness on the ancient provinces of his inheritance which he was required to cede. Unaccustomed to feign what he did not feel, this unnatural position was most disagreeable to him. His replies were even more laconic than they usually were, but always firm and manly. Napoleon afterwards called this "statsch;" but in this trying moment, as well as in the most desperate circumstances of his life, the King was true to himself. He however left his share of supporting the conversation to the Queen, who, without blemishing the transparency of her character, possessed the command of language to a remarkable degree, and who therefore expressed herself in terms, which without warranting the imputation of flattery, which it was impossible for her to use, were yet calculated to make a pleasing impression. For instance, she spoke with respect and interest of the Empress Josephine, and on other subjects that might be supposed to interest Napoleon. He was perfectly enchanted with the Queen; such female dignity, united with such loveliness and grace he had never before beheld. His admiration increased every moment, and he said afterwards, to Talleyrand, "I knew that I was to see the most beautiful Queen in existence, but I have found the most beautiful Queen, and at the same time the most interesting woman in the world." This

opinion of her whom he had taken every opportunity of insulting and of representing in the light of an "intriguante," is a strong proof of that power of fascination which converts the bitterest enemies into friends.

A French author, in his Memoirs of Napoleon, has thus alluded to the meeting at Tilsit:—"On sitting down to table, Napoleon, with great gallantry, told the beautiful Queen that he would restore Silesia, a province which she earnestly wished should be surrendered to Prussia in the new arrangements which were about to take place." Napoleon himself, in a letter to the Empress Josephine, written during the time of the treaty of Tilsit, says, "The Queen of Prussia is really a charming woman, she is fond of coquetting with me; but do not be jealous, I am like cere-cloth, along which everything of this sort slides without penetrating. It would cost me too dear to play the gallant on this subject."

Nevertheless, it has been repeated, and on good authority, that Napoleon was greatly disposed to acquiesce in *all* the wishes of the Queen, and that one of his generals asked him in a discontented tone, "If he thought every tear shed by a woman was to efface the blood of hundreds of his soldiers, which, if these requests were to be complied with, had been shed in vain!" Perhaps the effect produced by this speech was the cause of the denial of the fortress of Magdeburg, which the Queen so earnestly desired to recover.

It was related in the saloons of Josephine, that on one of the days during the Queen's stay in Tilsit, she held a beautiful rose in her hand, which the Emperor asked her to give him. The Queen hesitated a few moments, and then presented it to him, saying, "Why should I so readily grant what you request, whilst you remain deaf to all my entreaties?" The motives of the Queen, in what Napoleon was pleased to call coquetry with him, cannot be mistaken. Her desire to alleviate the burdens of her people, required the greatest tact, and the motive of her visit guards her from the imputation of coquetting with him. At a later period, it will be seen that Napoleon himself utters the best refutation of this charge, in speaking of the Queen to Prince Talleyrand.

The state of fermentation which prevailed throughout the whole nation, and which caused the Prussians to direct their attention more earnestly to their almost idolized Queen, was not unknown in the French Court; and Napoleon, who had a childish fear of the voice of truth, and who was anxious to obtain the good opinion of the Queen, loudly complained that he had not been able to inspire her with confidence. He declared to Talleyrand, that she might, if she had chosen, have come forward as a new Armida, and have dictated her terms of peace in Paris; but that she attached too much importance to the dignity of her sex, and seemed to estimate too highly the influence of public opinion, which she declared ought not to be too lightly sacrificed.

After a residence of three days at head-quarters, the Queen returned to Memel, and the treaty of peace between Prussia and France was signed on the 9th of July. How distressing the peace of Tilsit was to the Queen, and how much it continued to affect her, she did not conceal. She often referred to the well-known observation of Mary, Queen of England, who declared that if her heart could be seen, the name of Calais, graven in bloody characters, would be found upon it. The Queen declared, she felt thus with regard to Magdeburg.

The peace between France and Russia was signed on the 7th of July, and the Emperor Alexander prepared to leave Tilsit the same day. After passing three hours together, the two Emperors mounted their horses, and rode towards the Niemen. Before they separated, Napoleon gave the gold eagle of the Legion of Honour to the most distinguished soldier of the Russian imperial guard, in testimony of his respect for the corps. He also made a present of his portrait to Platoff, the Hetman of the Cossacks, He saw Alexander embark, and watched his progress to the opposite bank; then returning to Tilsit, he made his farewell visit to the King of Prussia, and immediately departed for Königsberg.

The treaty of Tilsit, which put the seal to the disasters of Prussia, caused the most profound grief to the Queen. She declared in her letters to her father, that she could "hope no longer; resigned to the will of Providence, she endured without a

murmur, striving for the sake of those around her, to appear cheerful." But concealed sorrow produces visible effects, and from this period may be dated the commencement of that incipient disease, which was undoubtedly the effects of poignant, although suppressed emotion.

The chief articles of the treaty were as follow:— Prussia ceded every conquest made since the accession of Frederick the Great, with the exception of Silesia. Magdeburg was not restored to Prussia. Dantzic was proclaimed a free city, under the protection of Prussia and Saxony. Prussian Poland was erected into the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and placed under the dominion of the King of Saxony. It should be stated, that he gave liberty to all the serfs, and abolished slavery in the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. This was all Napoleon did for Poland. The Emperor Alexander did not scruple to appropriate one of the Prussian provinces, which lay conveniently for improving his frontier, ceding one of his own to Holland in exchange. He recognized all the new kingdoms already erected by Napoleon; and in addition, that of Westphalia, which was conferred on Jerome Bonaparte at this period. He also surrendered Corfu to France, and recognized its possession of Hanover.

Napoleon's army was abundantly supplied, large magazines and stores had been found in Königsberg, and others were established at Dantzic, and along the Vistula; while a navigable communication existed between Dantzic, Königsberg, and Tilsit.

He had all the Prussian arsenals for arming the Poles. Prussia could no longer be said to exist as a nation.

In her letters to her father about this time, the highly religious views with which the Queen contemplated the events of this world, are apparent. The struggles and hopes of these sublunary scenes appeared now to be over, but in proportion as the external world seemed to fade away, a new world arose in the richly gifted and active mind of the Queen, which was composed of recollections of the past, of lively perceptions of the present, and of anticipations for the future. The clearness of her intellect enabled her to perceive that a reign of darkness, however firm and powerful it might appear, could not endure for ever, and that at last the light of truth must break through it. The Queen was convinced that the inevitable must be borne, not only with resignation, but with prudence. It was a maxim peculiarly conformable to the principles of her lofty mind and Christian disposition, that all personal injuries should be passed over, but that indifference should never be allowed to blunt our acute perception of the principle of evil. This must be avoided to the utmost of our power, but with discrimination; for in the progress of civilization it must be apparent that time is necessary for bringing it to maturity, and until that period we must endure our sufferings in silence, and refrain from action. She believed that those who possess true faith, form an

invisible church, consoling, elevating, and strengthening each other, in order that a great futurity may not find them unprepared for it. Supported by these views, beloved by her husband, and surrounded by her children, the Queen experienced a degree of happiness in this life apart from that of her regal existence; but she loved her people, and her heart sympathised in their sufferings; these were, indeed, great, for enormous burthens were laid upon them.

The conditions of the Treaty of Tilsit were unfulfilled, although the King and his people had striven to fulfil all their obligations with the strictest accuracy. The evacuation of the country as far as the Weichsel, should have been the first result of the Treaty, but this was delayed on various pretexts. With reference to the peace of Tilsit, the Queen wrote to her father as follows:—

"We remain morally free, and this will bring political freedom. I am convinced, my dear father, that the way in which this peace has been concluded, will, at a future period, sooner or later (although I perhaps may not live to see it), bring down a blessing on Prussia. At Eylau the King was required to abandon his faithful ally; this, he who is all truth, and fidelity itself, would not, and could not do. Once more, this Treaty will ultimately bring down a blessing on Prussia. This is my firm conviction."

A beautiful instance of the unanimity of feeling existing between the Queen and her subjects at this period, may find a fitting place here:—

'As the miseries of the war had deprived many of the lower classes of their ordinary means of support, and the poor people were in the greatest distress, the most heart-rending calamities ensued, even mothers abandoned their children, and left them on the bridges or at the corners of the streets, and very many groups of these unfortunate little creatures lay the whole night through in the open air without food or shelter, and this during the frost and snow. The magistrates and other officials in this unhappy period, received these little foundlings (who were mostly children of soldiers that had been required to enlist) under their own roofs, in order not to come into collision with the French authorities, at that time established throughout the various towns of Prussia. But this could not continue. The number was so great, that it required consideration in what manner the future existence of these poor deserted children could be provided for. A meeting of philanthropists was held, who, with the most praiseworthy zeal, opened a subscription for the future subsistence, clothing, and education of these foundlings: and they had the satisfaction of obtaining considerable sums for this purpose, although the universal exigency of the times pressed heavily upon all classes.'

'This opportunity of proving their confidence in the participation of the King and Queen in every laudable intention, and their affectionate desire of manifesting the respect they entertained for the Queen personally, suggested the unanimous request to her Majesty,

that she would be pleased to allow the asylum it was proposed to erect for these foundlings to be called after her; and that desire was conveyed to her Majesty by the Prebendary Hanstein.

The manner in which this request was granted, and the lively interest the sympathising "Mother of her people" took in this undertaking, is best shewn in her own letter to the Prebendary. In reply to his solicitation, enclosing a prospectus of the institution, she writes thus.

"Memel, 31st August, 1807.

"Benevolence has always been a prominent feature in the character of the inhabitants of Berlin. It has never been more beautifully displayed than on the termination of this unhappy war, which has enabled them to project an institution for the support, education, and future provision of poor deserted children of living parents. I thank you, Reverend Sir, for your prospectus.

"For orphans there are already various asylums; but for this particular class of unfortunate children no provision had been thought of. This undertaking therefore merits universal support and the most lively sympathy. I am deeply sensible of this affectionate proof of respect, confidence, and love displayed in the request that the Institution should bear my name, and be considered under my protection. With great satisfaction I accede to these propositions, and I also undertake to provide at the expense of the State for four of these little foundlings, whom I request you, Reverend Sir, will select according to the regulations

of the Institution, and provide a sponsor for them. I send you one hundred Frederics d'or towards the preliminary expenses of the Institution.

"The war which has brought so many unavoidable calamities on the nation, whose 'Landesmutter' it is my pride to call myself, has also brought forth many exquisite fruits, and scattered the seeds of much that is good and desirable. Let us unite in cultivating and fostering these with care, and thus we may hope that the loss of power may be richly compensated by the exercise of virtue.

"You, Reverend Sir, have done your part towards the attainment of this object. Many of your worthy colleagues have laboured zealously in concert with you. You have inspired and sustained in the inhabitants of Berlin, that spirit which alone enabled them to endure calamity with dignity. By this you have aided in strengthening the ties of love which unite the nation and its Ruler so firmly together. So much the greater and the purer will be the joy of that re-union which is so ardently and reciprocally desired.

"Your affectionate,

"LOUISA."

This example of the King and Queen was most encouraging. During the vicissitudes of their position, when they were driven from Königsberg and compelled to reside at Memel, they were in a state of almost privation; yet they did not despair. The

King was not morose in his gravity. The Queen was not fretful in her melancholy; they were neither of them egotists, and both sought by self-control to alleviate the painful position of their present circumstances. They have been often heard to repeat,—"Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth," and they both strove to inspire the hopes of others by their own cheerful resignation. Their mutual affection rendered them so happy in their interior, that the exterior form of Majesty was but a secondary consideration in their minds. It was the privations and burthens of their people that weighed so heavily on them both. The inhabitants of Königsberg and Memel were accustomed to see the King, Queen, and royal children walking through the streets, and with the greatest condescension returning the respectful greetings of their people with a degree of cheerfulness that was really communicative. Money was frequently so scarce, that they had not sufficient for daily expenditure; not even for the most indispensable articles of the table, which was supplied only with what was absolutely necessary. It was asserted by some, who were present at the royal repasts in Memel, that scarcely a little tradesman's family was so ill supplied; but this was not all; even this most remote part of the kingdom was threatened by the enemy, and the Queen wrote to her sister thus:—

"It seems as if we are to be driven from this place by the enemy's troops. What will be my

feelings in quitting the kingdom? Yet if it must be so, I will go accompanied by my reliance upon God's mercy and justice, who is mighty in His wisdom, and will give strength to support me."

The sympathy of their subjects was not confined to words alone; many substantial proofs of the respect and esteem of the country people were given. One may be cited as an example. It occurred during the sojourn of the royal family at Memel.

"A member of the sect of Mennonites, whose name was Abraham Nickell, came with his wife to request an audience of the King and Queen. This good man, with the straightforward manner of his sect, immediately declared the intention of his visit, in these words, but with his head covered, and using the expressions of his peculiar sect.

"Most gracious Sovereign, thy faithful subjects of the sect of Mennonites are aware how great thy necessities are at this time, and of the great privations which it has pleased God to permit, should extend over thy royal house. This we learn with sorrow, and therefore our community have met, and have cheerfully contributed this little sum (3000 Frederics d'or), which I now present. I am sent by them to request our beloved King and Ruler will be pleased to accept graciously the money we present so cheerfully, and to assure him he has the prayers of his faithful Mennonites, which will not cease for him and his."

His wife brought a basket of fresh butter, which

she uncovered and presented to the Queen with the following simple expressions of homage and love:

"I have heard that our good Queen likes good fresh butter very much, and that the little Princes and Princesses eat bread and butter very heartily, so I have made some myself which is very fresh and good, and that is rare just now, so I thought it might be acceptable. My gracious Queen will not despise this humble gift. This I see already in thy true and friendly features. Oh, how glad I am to have seen thee once so near, and face to face to have spoken with thee!"

The Queen was peculiarly susceptible of kind intentions; with tears standing in her eyes she pressed the hand of the peasant woman as that of a friend; she took off the shawl she had then on, and placed it on the shoulders of her humble and faithful subject, with these words, "As a remembrance of this moment."

The King was also much affected by this mark of interest from his subjects.*

In Memel the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick

* It may be stated here, that when Abraham Nickell had the misfortune, some years after, to have his house and all he possessed burnt to the ground, the King who was then restored to his throne, took care to replace his property, and to build him a better and more convenient house than he had formerly. Whatever kindness the King received was deeply graven on his memory; and if it were possible, he repaid it in the most suitable manner.

William were obliged to be lodged in the house of a merchant named Argelander, as the house in which the King and Queen resided was too small to contain all the family.

The birth-day of Madame Argelander was usually celebrated with rejoicing by her family. She was a well-educated and very amiable woman. On this occasion, in order not to disturb the studies of the two young Princes, who lived on the upper floor, it was determined to celebrate the day in the country. This the Queen had learnt from the young Princes. Towards evening she sent one of the attendants on the Crown Prince, to beg Madame Argelander would return home immediately with her relations and friends. She respectfully presented her homage to the Queen, but excused herself. Soon after the Crown Prince arrived in his carriage to repeat the Queen's request. As his mother wished to speak with her immediately, he took her back with him in the carriage.

What was Madame Argelander's astonishment to see the windows of her house brilliantly illuminated, and also to find the Princes' apartments decorated with great taste, where the Queen surrounded by her children awaited her, and came forward to meet her with these kind expressions:

"I could not deny myself the pleasure of congratulating you, my good Madame Argelander, on your birth-day, and at the same time to thank you for the kind and friendly reception which you have given the

Princes under your hospitable roof. Most willingly do I come to assist in celebrating your natal day with my children; the pleasure of your company was indispensable here; very soon your friends will arrive whom I have caused to be invited, for I wished you to be gratified as usual with the presence of your friends and relations."

In a short time the guests did arrive, and they were enchanted with the grace, the condescension and the almost affectionate interest the Queen manifested. She knew how to put people at their ease. Where love really exists, it is the highest source of delight, as it is in fact the purest and most lasting.

A letter was written about this time by an eye-witness of the behaviour of the royal family to those who were wounded and suffering in Memel.

"The King and Queen both sought to alleviate, by every means in their power, the sufferings of the afflicted. The Queen endeavoured to sooth the pangs which she could not remove. Sympathy can do much, and this the Queen gave to high and low; and the serenity of her resignation was not lost on those around her."

When the royal family were about to quit Memel, the King wrote the following letter to his faithful subjects in that town.

"I thank my good and brave citizens of Memel for their many proofs of fidelity and attachment to my own person, to my consort, and to the royal family. It will never be forgotten, that although

Memel of all my States has been the only town exempted from the calamities of war, it has proved itself equally ready to endure them; it seems to have been selected by providence to be the residence of my family. The many proofs of love and of affectionate loyalty which have been exhibited by the citizens, unshaken by the probable approach of the enemy, have raised them to a pitch of dignity in my estimation that will ever remain indelibly fixed on my memory. I take this opportunity with joy of expressing this opinion, and I shall prove by every means in my power,

"Your gracious Sovereign,

"FREDERIC WILLIAM.

"Memel, 14th January, 1808."

The arbitrary will of the French powers devised continual pretexts for evading their obligations, and fresh demands were made on Prussia. Negotiation was fruitless, because every syllable of the treaty, almost before it was concluded, was distorted from its original signification. Expostulation was useless; for silence only was opposed to the representations of Prussia; while there was scarcely a species of injustice that was not at that time inflicted upon her. The King was so anxious to relieve his people from their numerous burdens and to prevent further aggressions, that he sent his royal brother, Prince William, to Paris, who went readily in the hope of being able to obtain some relief for his country. This sacrifice

was in vain, for a treacherous system of policy delayed all the negotiations with the Prince, as it had already delayed the fulfilment of the treaty.

The Prince lived in the Court of France like a second Arminius, and like him, in the camp of Varus, was occupied entirely in mediating for the deliverance of his country. It was a glorious event for him, that he was enabled, after the lapse of a few years, to avenge, sword in hand, the injuries his native country had sustained, and the insults he was obliged to endure from the Court of France. But however distressing was the position of the royal family, and however great the Queen's heart-felt sorrow for the calamities of her people, of which she perceived no cessation, yet her courage did not fail; and the continued presence of the King and her children consoled her in the midst of her privations. How much she appreciated this domestic happiness her letters from Memel have already shown. She says in another letter:—

"I read much and reflect much, and amidst many trials there are days when I feel contented. It is true, mankind has no part in this feeling, it proceeds from within. Externally there is only the friendship of the King, his confidence, and affectionate behaviour to constitute my happiness."

She writes again thus:—

"The King is more affectionate and kind to me than ever—great happiness and a great reward after an union of fourteen years."

At length in the month of September, Prince William succeeded in concluding the convention, which had been arranged in a conference between the Emperor Alexander and Napoleon, at Erfurth, although with very hard conditions for Prussia; but it assured the evacuation of the country by the French troops, with the exception of the three fortresses on the Oder. The negotiations at Erfurth, with reference to Prussia, were proofs of the bitterness of the French Emperor towards the whole nation, as well as the King, whom he could not pardon for not having bowed the knee sufficiently low to him. The principal object of Napoleon, at the Congress of Erfurth, was to bring about a treaty of peace with England; but she, to her eternal honour, defeated his object by refusing the offered proposals and breaking off all further negotiation.

Even in the midst of her own privations, the Queen's active benevolence never failed; and the effects of her influence were apparent in promoting everything intellectual and moral. With the conviction that the development of the human heart and mind can never be too soon encouraged and directed to worthy objects, either in science or philosophy, it was a great source of pleasure to their Majesties, when the Crown-Prince was chosen "Rector Magnificentissimus" of the University of Königsberg. The day of the election was the 18th of January, 1808, the anniversary of the foundation of the Prussian Monarchy. Well aware of the storms which were

now threatening the existence of the kingdom, the heir to the throne, at that time thirteen years old, stood on the threshold of the stage of life in the confidence of youth and hope, and in the full promise of a happier futurity.

The professors of the different faculties of the University looked forward also in the spirit of zealous loyalty to happier times. It was not an unusual occurrence for a royal heir to be Rector of this University, for Prince Albert Frederic, son of the Founder of the Institution, in 1567; Duke Christian, of Brunswick Lüneburg, in 1581; and lastly, King Frederick William the First in 1701, were Rectors of this University. Such precedents were considered sufficient to inspire bright hopes of the future. The King and Crown-Prince were, therefore, equally gratified by the choice of the University.

On the 6th of March, 1808, the insignia of office was publicly conferred on the Prince in the Hall of the University with all due solemnity; and a great number of the students gave their youthful Rector a *fête* on the occasion with every demonstration of joy and satisfaction. This was a delightful moment for the King and Queen; for amidst the surrounding darkness, the light of knowledge beamed forth, and the best symbol of a life of usefulness was presented by the manner in which the youthful heir to the monarchy already wielded the sceptre of that intellectual kingdom over which he was called upon to preside.

The Crown Prince (now Frederic William IV.) united a love of science and useful knowledge, with great freedom of thought, and these excited lively expectations.

With a firm hand he wielded the sceptre of science and art entrusted to him, to the great delight of his royal parents, and the universal satisfaction of those who had conferred this dignity upon him at such an early age.

The Queen greatly desired, if it were possible, to spend the winter in Königsberg, for the cold damp air of Memel, and its close vicinity to the sea had seriously affected her health. At length the country was evacuated as far as Weichsel, and on the 15th of December, 1807, the King, Queen, and royal family went to Königsberg, where they were received with the loudest acclamations, and the most sincere demonstrations of attachment.

The evacuation of the country having commenced, a ray of brightness seemed to extend over the royal family, and the naturally cheerful disposition of the Queen seemed to recover its wonted serenity. The Princesses of the Blood Royal, Prince William and Princess Louisa (by marriage, Princess Radzivill), who had remained with the royal family in Memel, followed the Queen to Königsberg, where they continued to manifest the sincere attachment and sympathy they had ever displayed towards her.

On the 1st of February, the Queen was delivered of a Princess (Louisa). She was remarkably well in this

confinement, and employed the time she spent in her chamber in great mental activity. She read and wrote much, and amused herself with intellectual conversation; for which purpose, her physician, the State Counsellor Hufeland, was frequently invited.

Prince Hohenzollern, Abbot of Oliva, and Electoral Bishop of Ermeland, who spent some weeks in Königsberg this winter, was among those especially favoured by the Queen:—she highly estimated his piety, and his zeal for knowledge and art. The birth of the Princess Louisa presented an opportunity for drawing still closer those propitious ties that already bound the King of Prussia and his subjects so firmly together. The King resolved to give his little daughter the States of Eastern Prussia as sponsors, because she had been born amongst them. The ceremony of the christening took place in the presence of the clergy, nobility, and burghers of the town by means of deputies from each class chosen by themselves for this purpose; the King entertained them previously with a banquet.

The spring, which was especially mild this year, invigorated the Queen's health so much, that she was enabled to enjoy the natural beauties of the environs of Königsberg. She who knew so well how to appreciate the beauties of nature, was delighted with the freshness of vegetation, which is so peculiar to a northern climate. But new and important events, both in the south and west, again excited universal astonishment and agita-

tion. A great drama had commenced some months previously. The Spanish royal family were entangled in the meshes of French policy, till it finally became its victim. The treaty for a division of Portugal, between France and Spain, made by King Charles the Fourth and the French Emperor, was the commencement of most important events. It induced the Prince Regent of Portugal to quit his European dominions, and to sail with his whole family for the Brazils. After their departure a great portion of Portugal was taken possession of by Marshal Junot, and occupied by a French army, in the name of a Provisional Government.

Every thing was in confusion in Spain. Intrigues of all sorts dishonoured the Court, and revolted the people. An insurrection broke out in Madrid. The King, Charles IV. renounced the throne in favour of his son Ferdinand, but two days afterwards, he protested against his abdication. All bonds were broken, and all ties rent asunder; the confusion in Spain increased, and the French were busily occupied in augmenting it. At length Napoleon set off for Bayonne, in order to regulate the affairs of Spain himself. He ostensibly mediated between father and son, but increased the embarrassment of their respective relations. In the meantime, the inhabitants of Madrid and the surrounding neighbourhood had risen in opposition to the French soldiers, and various skirmishes had taken place. What transpired at Bayonne is well known,—the transfer of all rights to

the Spanish throne from the King to the French Emperor, the renunciation of the throne by the Spanish Princes, and the departure of the whole family for France, are events which have no parallel in history. The nomination of the then King of Naples, Joseph, to the throne of Spain, immediately followed. The French Emperor, who was always so ready to speak of constitutions, and to violate and trample under foot the laws which they guaranteed, had called a reigning junta at Madrid and Bayonne. King Joseph had accepted, and sworn to maintain the constitution, and had already arrived in Madrid; but the greater part of the nation revolted from this violent usurpation. Many of the principal nobility united to form a second junta, and they applied to England, which concluded a treaty with Spain; the independent portion of Portugal also declared itself in amity with Spain. Various skirmishes had already taken place before King Joseph entered Madrid, but very soon the Junta of Castille declared the abdication of King Charles IV.; the renunciation of the Infant, and all that had transpired in Madrid, null and void, on the ground of constraint.

During this period, Napoleon had, by an imperial decree, caused Rome to be occupied by French troops. The four Papal provinces, Ancona, Urbino, Macerata, and Camerino, were incorporated with the kingdom of Italy. He declared the refusal of the Pope to enter the confederacy against England to be tanta-

mount to a declaration of war. By this course the temporal power of the Pope was to be annihilated! But the impression which would be made on the Spanish people, (whose chief called himself "The Catholic King,") by this encroachment on a power which had existed through so many centuries, by means of its spiritual ascendancy, had not been duly calculated. A spirit of patriotic resistance possessed the minds of the people, and their leaders were tried and approved men. To the latest period of history, the names of Castaños, La Romana, Palafox, and Blake, will be pronounced with admiration.

The affairs of Spain made a deep impression on the Queen's mind; and perhaps no nation manifested a greater degree of sympathy and a more lively interest in her concerns than Prussia. So much duplicity, arrogance, and injustice on one side, and so much energy, courage, and perseverance on the other, could not fail to excite the liveliest interest in a mind so enthusiastic as the Queen's.

The delay in the final settlement of the affairs of Prussia was attributed to Napoleon's absence from France, and his incessant occupations in Spain. But one matter was decided in Bayonne with the greatest injustice to Prussia. All claims which the Prussian benevolent institutions had on the Duchy of Warsaw (and they were very considerable), were transferred to the King of Saxony; and thus widows and orphans were deprived for years of their subsistence.

All the occurrences of 1808 indicated still more plainly the firm foundation of the power of France; for the Spanish people could not long resist the superior discipline of the French troops, and the most disastrous defeats ensued.

Under such circumstances the Queen became more intensely anxious for the future. Only in the strict fulfilment of her duties, and her increasing zeal for higher aspirations and for other than mere temporal possessions—did she find resignation to endure the present, and tranquillity to await the future. It has been already seen how much the study of history attracted her inquiring mind; and as she advanced in life, she declared that history was the greatest and only true instructor of princes and politicians.

The investigation of the causes which had produced the events of the memorable period in which she lived, was to her almost a matter of duty; and the progress of civilization and the philosophy of history became to her important and interesting studies. The Lectures which Suvern, Professor of the University of Königsberg had given in the winter of 1808, and which had been read by the Queen, excited the most ardent inclination in her mind to enter into the details of those periods of German history which he had delineated in such a masterly style. Some remarkable characters, especially amongst the Germans, attracted her attention; and she wrote upon them in one instance as follows:—

"I read diligently Suvern's Lectures, and am now at the reign of Charles V., who was properly the founder of the German dynasty. He stands palpably before me in all his might and grandeur. He interests me; but not so much as Theodoric. He was a genuine German; his love of justice, his upright character, the profundity of his mind, and his magnanimity, abundantly prove this. The character of Charles V. bears the impress of the Franks, which was always somewhat repelling to me."

The motto of an age of true chivalry, "Justice, Faith, and Love," pleased the Queen so much that she had it engraved on a seal; yet she declared, if she were to choose a motto, it should only be "In God is my trust." Her belief was that God alone could help mankind. Through faith in him (a faith which the Queen saw arising in Germany once more, and to which she ardently desired to contribute, by the exercise of all the domestic virtues, and the encouragement of instruction), she firmly believed that her people would be enabled at a future time to struggle against foreign principles, and to assert the independence of their country. None of the signs of the times escaped her; she often spoke of mysticism which had begun to germinate, and put forth its blossoms of doubtful hues and sweetness: she knew well the dangerous exhalations of these flowers; but that the intellectual and supersensual in the abstract should revive in the minds of men, and that a firm belief in the Most High should animate them,

appeared to her an indication of better prospects for the future. A philosophy which thus trenched on the dominions of faith, and occupied the soul with a species of devotion, must have addressed itself peculiarly to the pious and poetical mind of the Queen.

It was about this time that she began to pay particular attention to the system of education practiced by Pestalozzi. It soon obtained her warmest interest, for she believed it would enable the next generation to acquire that knowledge and power which should preserve it from the evils of the present time. She caused the minutest information to be rendered of the progress made in the schools where this system was adopted; and she awaited with impatience the arrival of the master, a pupil of Pestalozzi, who had been sent for by the King from Wirtenburg.

The Queen, with her prophetic soul, seemed to refer everything to a futurity, which her clear intellect and pious disposition distinctly foretold; and it was a matter of conscience with her that the next generation should be prepared for it. But what she desired for her people she believed it was incumbent on her to procure for her children; and she frequently expressed her anxiety, especially for the Crown Prince, who during this time occupied her devoted attention as well as her intense affection. The King and Queen during the summer of 1808 took possession of a small estate called Hufen, in the vicinity of Königsberg. The garden had formerly belonged to

the celebrated Hippel. The situation, in the midst of a luxuriant valley, was beautiful, but the extent was limited. This was remarked to the Queen, who replied: "Happy in ourselves and blessed in the interior of our family, we need nothing further to make us cheerful. We have good air and tranquillity; and though not an extensive prospect, we have some fine trees, some beds of flowers, and a shady grove at hand. My husband and my children suffice for happiness; and then I have good books, a good pianoforte, and a good conscience; and with these one may live more tranquilly amidst the storms of this world than those who raise the tempest."

Thus I passed the summer, not without advantage in preparing the Queen for a better existence; but as public affairs yet remained in a most unsettled state, her distress on this account was very great. She had been supported by the ardent expectation of better times during the period of her greatest privations, and she was now upheld by her confidence in the wisdom of the Almighty.

The Archbishop Borowsky writes from Königsberg in 1808 thus:—

"Our Queen, in this time of deep affliction, is assuredly not joyous; but her gravity has a quiet serenity, a degree of composure and graceful dignity that extends over every action of her life. Her eyes have certainly lost the brilliancy of her early youth; it is perceptible that she has wept many bitter tears, and that they continue to flow on still; but their

mild expression of melancholy, and the longing aspirations for higher aims which they seem to convey are far more interesting than the brightness of her former glance. The roses on her cheeks have faded, and are replaced by a soft pallor, which is more captivating because more interesting. Around her mouth, where formerly a bright smile hovered, a slight contraction of the lips may at times be perceived, but not with any degree of bitterness—sorrow may be visible, but not anger. Her dress is always simple, yet suitable to her condition, and her choice of colours exhibits her pure taste: they are frequently symbols of the disposition of her mind at the moment. When in her presence, one thinks of the words of the Apostle Peter, who describes the outward adornment of women to be, 'Not in the plaiting of the hair, nor pompous apparel, but with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.'

"The piety of our honoured Queen is simple, healthful, and entirely Christian in its manifestation. She approaches with awe the sacred truths of her religion, and hungers and thirsts after righteousness; she is therefore highly susceptible of the consolations of religion. It is most gratifying to me that all her views, her convictions, her feelings and endeavours are founded on the scriptural promises contained in the Sacred Volume. This assures her firm reliance, perfect resignation, and her aspirations after immortality. I endeavour to strengthen her in these views.

"Her predominant feelings are so entirely in unison with the Psalms, which are so consonant to her poetic turn of mind, that I am often much pleased with the application she makes of them to her own position. When I had the honour of waiting on her last Sunday, I found her alone reading the Holy Scriptures. She rose up quickly to meet me, and said, 'I am reading that beautiful, and to me most precious psalm, the 126th, which we spoke of together, and which I have now deeply reflected upon; and the more I study it, the more I am attracted by its beauty and sublimity, and I know of nothing more calculated to console and elevate my mind than its mild and admirable expression of deep feeling. The sorrow of soul which it exhibits is profound, and although the Psalmist is almost forsaken, it is tranquil and mild in its expression of grief. How it will operate, and what fruits it will bring forth, may be exemplified by the beautiful parable of the sower and the seed. Inexhaustible hope is to be seen through the deep sorrows of the soul, and shines like the first rays of morning; one hears already through the tempest of sorrow the songs of triumph of the victor. One respires an atmosphere of melancholy, and at the same time of resignation and confidence. It is an elegy and a hymn; a Hallelujah accompanied by tears. I look at this psalm as one looks at a lovely flower on which the clear dew-drops of morning are glistening with the sun's bright rays. I have

read and re-read it until every word is deeply impressed on my memory. And now,' continued the Queen, with the most pious expression of devotion in her countenance, and with firm, clear, and soft accents, 'when the Lord shall liberate the captives, and the heavily burthened shall be released, then all will appear to us as if we had been dreamers; then will our lips be opened in praise; and our tongues utter songs of triumph; then will the world say of us: 'The Lord hath done great things for them.' Yes, the Lord hath done great things for us already, for we are cheerful. Lord, look down upon our sorrows, and make an end of our afflictions. Thou who hast set bounds to the raging sea, make those who have sowed in tears reap in joy. They have been driven forth in sorrow, they will produce the fruits of the seed sown in affliction. Let them come forth again in joy to present their offerings although they have been watered by tears.'"

The Archbishop concludes his letter thus: "As a sweet song leaves a more lasting impression when sung than when read, so the Queen's observations produced a more profound sensation on those who listened to the touching accents of her voice, as she broke forth in this enthusiastic strain, than the best description can convey. To me it seemed as if a new signification were given to the words, so lively was the impression produced on me by her melodious accents, proceeding as they evidently did from a heart attuned to celestial harmony. As I listened to

this noble-minded woman, I repeated mentally, whilst the words of eternal life were falling from her apparently inspired lips: 'In Thy light we perceive the light, and are blessed. Who suffers patiently shall be consoled,' for a pure light seemed to beam around her, and she appeared to me in this almost beatified radiance, more beautiful, as she was far more interesting than ever she had appeared in her earliest youth."

These are the expressions of a good and venerable man, who was well acquainted with the interior of the royal household: he was the confidential friend and counsellor of the King, and estimated those characteristics of the Queen, which rendered her almost the idol of those around her. He knew that the Queen had many sad hours, and that sleepless nights often succeeded anxious days. She had at times been ready to exclaim, "My God! my God! why hast thou forsaken me!" but the greater the struggle for resignation, the greater was the triumph over the natural feelings of the human heart, in that overwhelming and almost desperate state of affliction.

The King and Queen were so united in their feelings that no murmurings or irritable sensations were vented in their private life; thus their interior was happy and unconstrained. The royal children were in the full enjoyment of health, and blessed with many natural advantages, which caused the liveliest satisfaction to their royal parents.

Great and indelible is the influence of a good

mother over the minds as well as the hearts of her children. What the Queen was to her children every mother may be. It is by example, by the influence of deep devotion to the welfare of the objects to whom she has given being, that she aids in their moral and intellectual development, whether in a palace or in a cottage. Imperceptible as its daily growth may be, the effects of the mother's daily care for her children are as surely effectual as the gardener's care is visible in the development of the plant. The soft tones of love, the incessant watchfulness of the mother's eye, the quick perception of the mother's judgment, her accurate knowledge of her children's dispositions, all contribute to form the character of her offspring in an extraordinary degree. Nothing is so quickly learnt as by maternal influence. From the mind of the mother the child derives its earliest direction; perceptibly or imperceptibly, whether for good or evil, this is the case; for the secret sympathy of the mother for her own offspring is both physical and moral. How can it be otherwise? In her bosom she has nourished the germ of their physical being; her spirit must have operated on their physical existence before they saw the light; her arms have enfolded them in their helpless infancy; the soft tones of maternal love have been to them the first sounds connected with pleasing impressions; her incessant cares have shielded them from pain and sorrow in their little infantine troubles; this cannot be forgotten in after-life. It is an indelible impres-

sion, though sometimes temporarily invisible, and exists through all the changes of time. It is the primitive spark which kindles in after-life all that is good and pure in the circle of the affections. The harmonious impression remains even to the last hour of the existence. When its sounds of melody are mute, the Æolian harp retains still its power of giving forth sweet sounds, although it can vibrate only to the breath of heaven. Such a state of innocence and purity in the infant mind, under the care of a good mother, may be compared to the atmosphere of heaven. However the precepts of a tender parent may seem to be undermined by contact with the world, even after the loss of the hallowed influence by death or separation, the principle endures: let every parent think and feel that when the silent grave shall receive them, the living principle they have inculcated, either by love or example, will remain, and probably bring forth fruits that shall do honour to their memory. Often will the remembrance of the loved and lost contribute to support the wavering or weak, and often will the noble-minded example of the departed parent excite the highest aspirations to do honour to the memory of those to whom we owe our being, and from whose noble minds and affectionate hearts we inherit our best feelings. Such a mother was the Queen, and such effects must her example produce.

The Queen once wrote thus:—"If posterity will not place my name amongst those of celebrated

women, yet those who were acquainted with the troubles of these times, will know what I have gone through, and will say, 'She suffered much, and endured with patience.' And I only wish they may be able to add,—She gave being to children who were worthy of better times, and who, by their continued struggles, have succeeded in attaining them."

The same feeling of chivalrous admiration for the noblest actions of the middle ages, which had caused her to choose the motto—"Justice, Love, Faith, and Truth," for her seal, made her cultivate these virtues as principles of actions. Her intense feelings of admiration for the beauties of nature, were exhibited when she resided at Hufen. She once said to Bishop Eylert, "I must give some hours each day to the care of attuning my mind to its proper tone. This is best done in solitude, but not in the retirement of my chamber; I must breathe the fresh air under the shade of trees. Surrounded by pure nature alone, I feel more capable of reflection, and more able to support my destiny. There is no turmoil of the world to disturb one's thoughts in the country. Oh, what a blessing lies in solitude for full hearts; and what a comfort it is to feel at ease, and contented with one's self!"

The King so well agreed with the Queen in the choice of a country life, that they spent the spring and summer of 1808 at the former residence of the well-known Hippell, where he composed his great work. Here the Queen wrote the following letter,

and it is another of the many proofs of her kindness and sympathy in the feelings of others, amidst her own privations. It was written to the preacher Koblant of Berlin, on the 20th of November, 1808, on the occasion of the anniversary of the fiftieth year of a marriage, a period of time always celebrated in Germany with great rejoicings and ceremonies of various kinds. It is called the Golden Jubilee, and the period of twenty-five years is called the Silver Jubilee, which is also accompanied by many joyous preparations and ceremonies, especially in the middle and lower classes.

The Queen wrote thus:—

"I understand that the weaver Domitsch will celebrate his Golden Jubilee on the 28th of this month, and that you, as his spiritual guide, will publicly give the benediction to the respectable couple in the church, to which the whole community is invited. This proves to me that the course of life this worthy pair has pursued, must have rendered them objects of esteem and affection to all good people. I therefore request you will convey to them, on this interesting occasion, my warmest expressions of sympathy, and my fervent wishes that the choicest of God's blessings may continue to attend them. Such a remarkable extension of the period of their matrimonial relations is so unusual in this life, that I wish to contribute some additional enjoyment to the festival; and I therefore send you a present for them, which I

request you to offer immediately in my name, or reserve it for the day of the festival, in whichever way is most calculated to enhance their gratification in receiving it.

"I remain,

"Your affectionate Queen,

"LOUISA.

"20th November, 1808."

In every thing the Queen did, there was the same identity of feeling with others; she well exemplified the maxim, "that to true dignity nothing seems beneath attention which can promote happiness." She was indeed a mother to her people: this was exemplified in her manner of shewing satisfaction in whatever was intended to please her. The anniversary of her natal day was marked in Königsberg this year by every expression of affection a mother could receive, and even the smallest house was illuminated according to its means. The fête at the little village of Hufen was more pastorally celebrated; garlands, flowers, rustic music, the preparations for giving a good meal to the poor, the ringing of the bells, the cheerful countenances brightened with love and loyalty to the adored Queen, were all as gratifying to her as the most costly and magnificent celebrations. Her heart bounded and her cheeks glowed with grateful acknowledgments.

When children approached the Queen, she mani-

fested great pleasure, and they clustered around her, secure of her condescending kindness. „ Children are good physiognomists; they always select as favourites those who are really fond of them. With the Queen, children of every degree soon lost their shyness; and timidity was exchanged for affection, when they approached her with their little offerings of flowers, and received her sweet, warm smile of tenderness in return." "The *Kinderweld*" (Children's World)* she has often been heard to say, "is my world." There were some works greatly prized by Pestalozzi, and used in his method of teaching, which the Queen thought highly of. The very excellent one bearing the title of "Lienhard and Gertrude," published in 1781, in four volumes; the "Book for Mothers," 1803; and another, with the title, "How Gertrude taught her Children," were so attractive in their style and method to the Queen, that she highly recommended them to others, to whom they were of the greatest service.

The Emperor Alexander, with that sincere friendship which he ever entertained for the King and Queen, had remained some days with them at Königsberg, both on his journey to Erfurth and return thence; and he invited them to visit him in his capital before they should return to Berlin.

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*This was a book of Krummacher's, which was a great favourite with the Queen; and his Parables were also highly esteemed by her.

They accepted this invitation, and in the month of December set off for St. Petersburg. The friendship that existed between them had been so firmly cemented by the concurrence of events, that they were anxious to shew him this mark of reciprocal interest by returning his visits to them before their anticipated return to their own capital. They accordingly set out on the 27th of December, 1808, from Königsberg, on their route to St. Petersburg.

The first day's journey brought them safely to Memel. It only occupied eight hours, and was accomplished in light covered carriages placed on sledges. In all the considerable towns of the Russian dominions, the most brilliant preparations were made to receive them in a manner befitting the royal visitors.

At Polanzen, the Russian frontier, those persons awaited them who had been appointed to receive their Majesties by the Emperor Alexander, amongst whom was Count Lieven, who had been selected to accompany them to St. Petersburg. He presented the royal travellers and their principal attendants with rich travelling pelisses of most magnificent fur.

A crowd of male and female peasants on horseback, dressed in their national costume, awaited the Queen, and presented her, in ornamented baskets, with apples, pears, and other similar offerings; and amidst acclamations and songs of welcome, the royal carriages proceeded onwards. At every station, horses were in readiness as the royal party

came up, and at stated distances pickets of Cossack troops were stationed to form an escort. The whole distance from the Russian frontier to St. Petersburg, eight hundred and twenty wersts, (one hundred and seventeen German miles, and about three hundred and fifty English) was divided into thirty-nine relays; the post-houses where the royal travellers were to pass the night, were entirely refurnished at the expense of the Emperor, and fitted up in a manner corresponding with the rank of the travellers. In all these places there were illuminations and a detachment of cavalry, forming a guard of honour to accompany them on their route. In all the fortified towns they were saluted, both on their entrance and departure, by fifty-one rounds of cannon; each garrison paraded before them; and at every place where they alighted, a guard of honour consisting of an entire company, was drawn up to receive them with the customary honours.

On the third day, their Majesties and suite arrived in Mittau. The nobles of Courland here assembled to receive them, and presented a poem, expressive of the universal gladness their Majesties' visit inspired.

On the 30th of December, about six in the evening, the royal travellers entered Riga. The whole garrison, which was very strong, paraded on the ice of the Duna, and before the fortifications a guard of militia was assembled on horseback. Amidst salutes of artillery, their Majesties alighted from their carriage, and entered the palace of the

Emperor. The principal civil and military authorities of the town and garrison presented their congratulations, and there was a Court held to receive them. In the evening, their Majesties honoured the Associated Company of Merchants with their presence, at a ball which had been prepared with great magnificence. The following day, the Royal Travellers were present at a grand review of the troops in Riga, and the evening terminated again with a ball given to their Majesties by an association called the "Muses," which was opened by the Queen, with the Russian ambassador to the Court of Berlin, the Count Lieven. On both these occasions, the whole town was illuminated.

On the 1st of January, 1809, their Majesties left Riga, and continued their journey to St. Petersburg, when, for greater security, the sledges were attended by persons from the imperial stables, who were more accustomed to this mode of travelling.

On the 4th of January, the royal party entered Narvoa, amidst the discharge of cannon, and the ringing of the bells of all the churches. The Commandant and the principal inhabitants of the town, came out to meet them, and the whole garrison was under arms.

On the following morning, their Majesties inspected the house where Peter the Great had lived, and which was precisely in the same state as when he inhabited it, having been most scrupulously preserved, in order to show the simple habits of the great mo-

narch. Thence their Majesties proceeded to the Cathedral. The clergy had assembled at the entrance to meet them, and after the usual service, a prayer and thanksgiving were offered up for blessings on the journey of their Majesties, which up to the present time, had been so happily accomplished. The Protopope presented the cross for their Majesties to kiss.

The next day's journey brought them to Ofidge, where due preparations had been made for passing the night.

On the 6th, the Grand Duke Constantine received the Royal Travellers at his summer residence, at Strelna, with a warm welcome; and here they were agreeably surprised by the appearance of the Emperor Alexander, who had come forward to meet his Royal friends. Joy sparkled in the eyes of the whole party at this unexpected meeting, and the Emperor remained until very late in the evening, in the enjoyment of friendly intercourse with his Royal guests.

On the following day, their Majesties made their solemn entrance into St. Petersburg. Early in the morning, the horse and foot guards from the various garrisons, had been assembled under arms, to the number of thirty-two thousand, and these formed in line, three deep, from the gates of the town, to the winter palace. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the Emperor proceeded through this line of troops on horseback, accompanied by his staff, and a numerous

party of his generals, to an estate belonging to the banker Bergin, where he intended to offer a morning repast to their Majesties. In about half-an-hour, the King and Queen arrived; they were received at the entrance by the Emperor, and by him conducted into the house. During the time they remained, the state carriage, with eight horses belonging to the Emperor, was brought for the Queen, and several other imperial carriages were also brought for the suite.

When the breakfast was concluded, the Emperor and the King mounted on horseback, and at this moment salvos of artillery commenced, which continued until the party had entered the winter palace. The procession moved slowly forward. The Emperor and the King rode first, surrounded by the whole of the Russian generals, and the King's suite; the Emperor, in compliment to his royal visitor, wearing the order of the Black Eagle, the King being decorated with the Russian order of St. Andrew. Immediately after, came the imperial state carriage used for coronations, in which the Queen sat on the back seat alone, dressed in a superb white satin pelisse, trimmed with magnificent sable; the principal lady of the Court, the Countess von Vosz, and the lady in waiting, the Countess von Moltke, sat with their backs to the horses. Several other state carriages followed, with the gentlemen forming the imperial Court. To show that all this ceremony was designed to please as well as do honour to

the reception of his royal visitors, the Emperor had caused a new carriage to be built for the Queen, in St. Petersburg, precisely similar to the one she was in the habit of using in Königsberg. This delicate attention to the taste of the Queen individually, could not fail to produce a lively feeling of satisfaction amidst the pomp of the surrounding pageantry. The Grand Duke Constantine rode on the left of the carriage with drawn sword, and immediately after the carriages, came a squadron of the guards of honour, solely composed of nobility.

At the entrance of the winter palace, the royal pair were received by the whole of the Imperial Court, who conducted the sovereigns up the grand staircase. The mother of the Emperor, the widowed Empress of Paul I., and the reigning Empress, came to the door of the first anti-chamber to meet them, and then the procession, which consisted of sixty-four gentlemen of the chamber, besides other officials, preceded them to the apartments of the Empress Mother, to which the Queen was conducted by the Emperor and Empress. A short time afterwards, the King appeared with the Emperor on the Parade, in order to inspect the troops; the Queen, accompanied by both the Empresses, viewed the manœuvres from a balcony in the palace, and the various troops defiled before them. The apartments appropriated to the royal visitors, were in that part of the palace called the Hermitage. They were furnished and decorated with the greatest possible magnificence;

the most elegant ornaments were distributed around, with vases of chrystal, bronzes, candelabra, porcelain, and objects of vertu of every description, all of the most tasteful selection.

The Queen had twelve rooms appropriated to her personal use. In one of the most exquisitely arranged apartments hung with pale pink silk drapery, over which the very finest muslin was arranged in the most simple but elegant forms, the Queen found a toilette of entire gold, and near the table, in a basket embroidered and ornamented with the most refined taste, lay six of the very finest Turkish shawls which had been selected for her as presents.

The principal gentlemen of the Court, Prince Nariskin, the Prince Beloselsky, the Princess Malkowsky, the Princess Beloselsky, and the Countess Tolstoi were assigned to the Queen as her especial attendants.

In the evening the weather was peculiarly mild and propitious for the splendid illumination, which was general throughout the whole city.

On the 12th of January (according to the Russian kalendar, the last day of December, and consequently the vigil of the new year), the King and Queen, as a part of the imperial family circle received according to the custom of the Court of Russia, new year's gifts of great value. The Queen received on the part of the Emperor and his consort, a most magnificent table service of chrystal, cut and polished in St. Petersburg; two enormous pedestals of glass,

six feet high, on which stood large vases of chrystal; some magnificent vases of porcelain; a very splendid dress; some India shawls, and other costly objects of taste and virtu. The following morning, the Russian New Year's day, was ushered in by the ringing of all the bells in the capital, which announced a double festival, for the union of the Grand Duchess Catherine, the beautiful and beloved sister of the Emperor Alexander, with the Prince of Oldenburg, was also to be solemnized on that day.*

At eleven o'clock the principal nobility assembled in the apartments adjacent to the palace chapel, and when all was prepared, the King of Prussia led in the Empress mother. The Queen followed, conducted by the Emperor and Empress; after them the bridal pair; then the other members of the imperial family: lastly all the high and official personages attached to the court, civil and military; and in their presence the nuptial ceremony was performed

The marriage was succeeded by the most brilliant fêtes, to celebrate the happy event. The King and Queen, however, spent a portion of each day in viewing the different objects of interest with which the imperial city abounds, and the

* This Princess, as the widowed Duchess of Oldenburg, accompanied the Royal Sovereigns to England in 1815, and was so popular that she set the fashions, and gave her name to a bonnet which the English ladies wore in compliment to her, called the "Oldenburg bonnet."

evenings were occupied by a succession of dinners, assemblies, balls, concerts, dramatic representations, illuminations, and fireworks up to the day of their departure, which took place on the 31st of January. The Emperor and the Grand Duke Constantine, accompanied the royal travellers to Strelna. The Emperor then entered a light caleche, and the Grand Duke mounted on horseback in order to take leave of their beloved and valued friends on the borders of the St. Petersburg jurisdiction.

Throughout the whole of the ceremonies required by the etiquette of their high rank, the most delicate attention and kindly feelings of friendship had been manifested by the imperial family, and the Queen was never weary of expressing her grateful sensations and pleasing recollections of her visit to St. Petersburg.

The royal pair arrived at Mittau on the 5th of February, their journey having occupied six days. Here the assembled nobles of Courland, who were formerly officers in the Prussian service, had prepared a festive reception for their Majesties, which deserves especial attention, as being an open proof of their dependance on the royal house of Prussia.

Their Majesties proceeded through a temporary arch, erected as a mark of respect for them, not far from the entrance to the town. It was ornamented with their names. In the evening there was a grand ball, when seventy of the officers, formerly in the Prussian service, welcomed their Majesties with

every token of respect and affection, and the ladies received the Queen at the foot of the grand staircase.

On their entrance to the assembly room, all the officers fell into line before the Sovereigns, who were presented with a poem. The band of martial music struck up the most enlivening strains, and the royal couple were led to a raised seat, decorated with purple velvet, over which a regal canopy was erected.

The Queen opened the ball with the Lieutenant-General Count Lieven. She danced several polonaises, an écossaise, and a waltz.

On the 6th instant they left Mittau for Memel, which place they reached on the 8th, and on the 10th they arrived safely at Königsberg, after a long and fatiguing journey of ten days from St. Petersburg.

The sequel has proved how much this journey assisted in maturing that friendship which the most adverse circumstances could not affect. The Queen frequently spoke of the vast and magnificent objects which she had seen in Russia, particularly in St. Petersburg; but above all she loved to speak of the Empress Elizabeth, and repeated with the greatest emotion, that this journey had been the means of procuring her a friend whom she could not sufficiently estimate, and whose noble and amiable qualities would link them together for ever. She also highly extolled the Empress-Mother, whose beneficent intentions were so ably carried out, and

she could not sufficiently express her admiration of the benevolent institutions, projected and superintended by that illustrious Princess, which she intended to imitate as far as possible in her own country.

During the absence of their Majesties, the Prussian States had been evacuated by the French troops, and nothing further would have opposed their long desired return to Berlin, had not Austria and France again commenced hostilities.

This war, which so deeply agitated the north of Germany, of which the scene of action was so near the capital as Saxony, effectually prevented the return of their Majesties to Berlin in the spring of 1809.

The King and Queen spent this summer at Hufen; but the Queen was greatly indisposed, and at last was taken seriously ill with an ague, which completely prostrated her strength. This war which caused such lamentable results, contributed not a little to undermine the Queen's health. A battle, on which great hopes had been erected, and so immediately annihilated, which was so deplorable in its consequences to Germany and the common cause, seemed to prove that nothing more was to be hoped for. At this time she wrote, "I feel daily more and more, that my kingdom is not of this world." Notwithstanding her ill-health, she did not cease to occupy herself zealously for the schools of instruction in Königsberg, and she frequently caused the director Zeller, the pupil of Pestalozzi to be sent for, in order

to converse with him on a matter so interesting to her. At a later period she more than once, accompanied by the King, encouraged both masters and scholars by her presence in the schools.

It is far easier for a man to preserve his equanimity in misfortune than for a woman to maintain her cheerfulness: the one is the consequence of a firm, reflecting mind; but the cheerfulness of a woman depends on local circumstances, and on the disposition and behaviour of those surrounding her.

The chords of harmony are so easily deranged by one discordant note; the slender threads that compose the multifarious feelings in the depth of the female heart, are so fine and so closely interwoven with the covering that must be worn as an exterior veil, that it is difficult to separate the outward demonstration of feelings from that which is passing in the profound depths within. The springs of these delicate emotions may be hidden, but their effects are visible, especially in moments when either moral or physical causes press heaviest on the weary spirit or the weakened frame. Who has not known, from their own experience, that the self-same thing has appeared light as a feather on some occasions, and on others has seemed like a mountain of lead pressing on the already burthened mind? Who is able to define the enigma of mind and matter thus acting and re-acting with such force on beings endowed with an immortal soul? True, the discord of conflicting

feelings, like those of conflicting sounds, may be softened by the master's hand; but who is always master of his own feelings? Who has always his emotions and passions under entire control? and without this it would be impossible to preserve constant equilibrium of temper. The Queen was sorrowful, not fretful; her gentleness never forsook her; and therefore, it redoubles the admiration which her character inspires, to know how her cheerfulness under privation enlivened the small circle of the Court during their sojourn at Königsberg. An instance of her forgiving disposition may be here recorded:—Although deeply wounded by the accusations of Napoleon, her christian piety prevented her from entertaining that hatred which in its bitterness seeks revenge: by gentle means only the Queen sought to disarm malignity. On the occasion of the fatal battle of Eylau, a portrait of Napoleon had been engraved, adorned with all the symbols of conquest. It was brought to the Queen; one of her ladies, enraged at the sight, in the indignation of the moment, spat upon it. "Not so, dear," said the Queen. "In this way we can never alleviate our sorrow. Impatience only presses the thorn deeper into the wound; patience only can bring resignation and mitigate our sorrows. We will look to our Saviour's example who prayed for his tormentors."

About this time the Queen wrote the following letter:—

"Best of fathers,

"All is lost, if not for ever, at least for the present. In my lifetime I hope for nothing further. I am now resigned, and in submission to the dispensations of Providence I am tranquil. In this calm reliance, if I have not temporal happiness, yet I may say I have more—I have peace of mind. It becomes clearer to me daily, that all that has occurred, must have occurred precisely as it has done. Providence evidently intended to bring about a new order of things to supersede the old and worn-out system of worldly policy, which was becoming obsolete. We have slumbered on the laurels of Frederick the Great, who, as the hero of his age, created a new era. We have not progressed with it, and it has preceded us. No one perceives this more clearly than the King. Just now, I had a long conversation with him on this subject, and he said thoughtfully, 'This must be changed, we must alter things;' the best and wisest fail, and the French Emperor at least is crafty and politic. If the Russians and Prussians had fought with the courage of lions, and we had not been conquered, we still should have been obliged to abandon the field, and the enemy would have remained with all the advantage. We may learn much from Napoleon: what he has done will not be lost upon us. It would be blasphemy to say that God has been with him, but apparently he is an

instrument in the hand of the Almighty to lop off the branches that have no longer vitality, but which have grown up and become identified with the stem. Surely better times will come, our faith in an all-perfect Being warrants this belief. Good can only be produced in this world by the good; therefore I do not believe that the Emperor Napoleon is firm and secure on his resplendent throne. Stability, truth and justice alone are firm and immutable, and he is only prudent, which means politic; he does not rule according to the laws of the Eternal, but according to circumstances as they arise; therefore his reign is stained with much injustice. He neither deals fairly with mankind, nor purposes honest and legitimate ends; his inordinate ambition is directed solely to his own personal aggrandizement. His character excites our astonishment more than our admiration. He is blinded by his good fortune, and believes he has the power to do every thing he wills; therefore he is totally without moderation, and he who is without moderation must eventually lose his equilibrium and fall. I believe firmly in God and His wise regulation of sublunary affairs, and this I do not see in the rule of force, therefore I entertain the hope of better times ensuing from these present evils. All good men equally hope, desire and expect this. All that happens, and all that has happened, are evidently not the results which are to endure, but only the paths which are to conduct

to a better goal. This goal lies apparently in the far distance; we most probably shall not be able to reach it, and may perish in the endeavour.

"Whatever God wills is right. I find consolation, courage and serenity in this thought, and in the hopes which are so deeply graven on my soul. Is not all in this world transition? still we must go through it. Let us be careful only that each day shall find us better and more prepared. Here, my beloved father, you have my political confession of faith, as well as I, a woman, can define and express it. It is probably imperfect. Pardon me, however, that I importune you with it. You will at least perceive that you have a daughter resigned in her adversity, and that the principles of christianity, and the fear of God, for which I am indebted to your instructions and pious example, are now bearing their fruit, and will continue to do so as long as I breathe.

"You will be glad to hear, dear father, that the misfortunes which surround us externally have not penetrated our matrimonial and domestic life. On the contrary, they have cemented our happiness, and rendered us more worthy of each other. The King, the best of men, is kinder and more affectionate to me than ever. I often fancy that I see the lover and the bridegroom in him; more in actions than in words (as is his wont) do I perceive that constant attention which in all cases he manifests for me. Only yesterday he said, with his usual charac-

teristic simplicity, gazing on me at the same time with the most affectionate expression of countenance, 'Thou, dear Louisa, art dearer to me than ever, and more valued in adversity. Now I know by experience what I have in thee. Let the storm rage without if the serenity of our union remain undisturbed. Because I love thee so tenderly I have named our youngest born little daughter, Louisa. This tenderness affected me even to tears. May it become his Louisa!'* It is my pride, my joy, and my happiness to possess the love and confidence of the best of men. I return his love with all my heart, and we are so perfectly united, that the will of the one is the will of the other; it is thus very easy for me to keep up the good understanding which has increased with our years. In a word, he suits me in every particular, and I am equally well adapted for him, and we are always best pleased when we are together. Pardon me, dear father, that I thus boast of our delightful union; it is the natural expression of my happiness, which cannot be more

* The original letter has this expression, "Möge es seine Louise werden," literally, "May it become his Louisa." It would seem that the name of Louisa is associated with what is good and great, for the King at a later period, when expressing his paternal affection for his daughter Louisa on her marriage with Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, said, "Nothing better could I hope or wish than that my beloved daughter may resemble her excellent mother;" "Und ihrem Gemahl eine Luise werden möchte;" literally, "And may become a Louisa to her husband."

important to any one in the world than you, my best and tenderest of fathers. With people generally, as I have learnt from the King, we may not speak of our internal happiness. It is enough that we know it ourselves.

"Our children are our real treasures, and we gaze on them in perfect satisfaction and well-founded hope. The Crown Prince is full of life and spirit. He has distinguished talents, which are happily developed and cultivated. He is truthful in all his sensations and expressions, which makes simulation impossible. He reads history with remarkable advantage, and the great and good have especial attractions for his ideal disposition. He has much susceptibility for wit, and his droll ideas entertain us very agreeably. He is remarkably devoted to his mother, and he cannot be purer than he is. I love him most sincerely, and often talk to him upon what he will do when he shall be King. Our son William (permit me, respectable grandfather, to place your grandchildren in a row before you), will be, unless I am completely deceived, like his father, simple in his habits, straightforward, and intelligent. His exterior also bears a great resemblance to him, only, he will not be, I think, so handsome. You see, dear father, I am still in love with my husband. Our daughter, Charlotte, continues daily to increase my delight in her; she is certainly reserved and retiring, but, like her father, conceals beneath a cold exterior, a warm and affectionate heart. Apparently indifferent, she has, in

reality, much love and sympathy for those around her, and there is something about her whole being which is very superior. If God spare her life I anticipate a brilliant destiny for her. Charles is good-natured, merry, straightforward, and full of talent; his physical development is as good as his intellectual. He has frequently *naïve* ideas, which make us laugh heartily; he is cheerful and witty. His incessant questions cause me great perplexity, because I cannot or may not answer some of them. This arises as much from his witty propensity, which we see by his arch smiles, as from curiosity. Although he will never lose his interest in the welfare and position of others, he will go through life cheerfully and easily. Our daughter Alexandrine is like a girl of her age and temperament, insinuating, and childishly affectionate. She already exhibits correct perception, much understanding, and great capacity for cultivation; she often laughs most heartily; she has quick sense and much susceptibility; she has rather an inclination for satire, and looks, therefore, very serious at times; but this does not in the least deteriorate from her good nature. Of the little Louisa, there is not, as yet, much to describe; she has the profile of her honourable, noble-minded father, and his eyes, only somewhat brighter; she is called Louisa,—may she resemble her ancestress, the amiable and pious Louisa of Oranien, the worthy consort of the Great Elector.

"Now you have my whole gallery of family portraits placed in array before you,* my dear father; you will say it is painted by a partial mother, who sees nothing but good in her children, and who has no eyes for their faults or failings; and, in truth, such propensities as should cause anxiety for the future, I do not find in any of them. They have, like other mortal children, their little whims, but these will be corrected by time, as they possess more understanding.

"Circumstances and situations educate mankind, and perhaps it may be as well that our children should have learnt in their youth to become acquainted with the serious and sad portion of existence.

"If they had grown up in the lap of luxury and enjoyment, they might have imagined it must naturally be ever thus. That it can be otherwise, they see in the serious countenance of their father, and in the melancholy and frequent tears of their mother. It may be especially beneficial for the Crown Prince, that he should be acquainted with misfortune in his youth, for he will, as I hope better things are in store for him, know how to estimate his happiness, and be careful to preserve it. My anxiety is wholly and solely for my children, and I pray God daily, in my fervent prayers, that he will bless them, and not withdraw his good spirit from them.

* Prince Albert was not born when this letter was written.

"With the excellent Hufeland, I entirely agree in opinion. He is not only careful of the physical constitution of my children, but he is careful to promote their intellectual improvement; and the upright, candid, Borowsky, whom the King estimates highly and receives always willingly, supports him in his views. If God spare my children, he preserves my best treasures, which none can tear from me. Let what will happen, surrounded by, and united with our good children, we shall be happy. I write this to you, my beloved father, that you may be tranquil, and think of us without uneasiness. To your friendly recollections I recommend my husband, and all my children, who beg to kiss the hands of their respected grandfather, and I am, and shall ever remain, my best of fathers, your grateful daughter.

"LOUISA."

This most touching and interesting letter shews the character of the Queen more fully that any description could pourtray.

On the 14th of October, 1809, the Queen was delivered of a Prince, who was baptized by the name of Albert; and in this confinement, which had been preceded by a long indisposition, she remained for a considerable time seriously ill; nevertheless, the return of the royal family to Berlin was fixed for the middle of December, and was not postponed. The Queen had received so many proofs of the sincere attachment of the inhabitants of Eastern Prussia, that

she could not anticipate a separation from them without emotion. At the same time her heart yearned towards Berlin; for she wished some compensation to be made for all the calamities its inhabitants had endured, and she believed her presence and that of the King would greatly contribute to make them forget their past sufferings. Still it was with a certain degree of apprehensive melancholy, for which she could not herself account, that she saw the period approach for her return. When the day was fixed for the 15th of December, she wrote the following letter:—

"So then I shall soon be again in Berlin, amongst so many true hearts who love and respect me. It seems as if the very idea oppressed me with its overwhelming joy; for I shed so many tears when I think of it, that I can scarcely realize what I shall feel when I arrive there, and find every place the same, yet every thing so altered. Gloomy forebodings agitate me. I would willingly be alone, sitting behind my lamp-screen, and giving myself up wholly to my own reflections. I hope it will be otherwise."

Who, as they read these touching expressions, can resist the notion, that there exists in delicately constituted minds an undefined presentiment of approaching dissolution, which seems to announce the mournful struggle that must accompany the severing of those ties of affection which link us to earth. However firmly the conviction may be

planted in really pious minds, of there being a home for them beyond the grave, still, to leave the beloved objects of our tenderest affection exposed to all the dangers of this world, is in itself a source of deep sorrow.

The journey from Königsberg to Berlin, which commenced on the 15th of December, 1809, appeared like a triumphal procession, for everywhere a most joyful and touching reception from all classes awaited the royal family. They spent the last night of their journey in the *Freienwalde*, and received there the deputies of the Equestrian orders and burghers of the town of Churmark. The procession on the following day to the capital resembled a solemn festival. In the vicinity of Berlin, the Queen, accompanied by her eldest daughter, Princess Charlotte, her third son Prince Charles, and her niece Princess Frederica, entered a carriage which the citizens of Berlin had presented to her, as a proof of their esteem and love. It was known that the Queen liked the colour of lilac, and it was employed in the decorations of the carriage and the caparisons of the horses. This recollection of her favourite colour was perhaps more gratifying to the Queen than the present itself. It is not the intrinsic worth of a gift that renders it valuable, but the feeling of sympathy which it exhibits for the characteristics of a sensitive disposition.

A simple flower will sometimes call forth sensations too deep for tears. It is in the minor affairs

of life that these slighter proofs of affection can be frequently shewn. Their continual recurrence produces that happy frame of mind, which if wanting, no splendour can supply.

The Queen was particularly careful in her choice of colours; she agreed with the definition of a person born blind, who compared the colour of lilac, according to his sensations in touching it, to the soft and melodious tones of a flute; whilst scarlet produced the effect of the sound of a trumpet. This definition of his sensations the Queen thought peculiarly apt.

The Queen's letter to the burghers of Berlin, accepting the carriage, ought to be given. She wrote thus:—

"You, my good Sirs, must be convinced that joyful expectations accompany me on my return to Berlin. The most acceptable demonstrations of attachment and loyalty have already been given me during our long and painful separation; and I accept this new proof of attention with the most heartfelt gratitude and delight, especially when I think of the first use that I shall make of this carriage, which will enhance its value in an immeasurable degree. Accept, as the representatives of that most respectable body, the citizens of Berlin, my warmest acknowledgments of gratitude, and assure them that I await with impatience the day which I shall reckon as one of the most important in my life, that will restore me to the capital, and place me once more amongst

its good citizens, when I can personally assure them of the confidence and esteem I have ever entertained for them."

This letter was dated from Königsberg, on the 1st of December, 1809.

She entered Berlin on the 23rd of December, on the anniversary of that day, and at precisely the same hour, on which she had made her public entry sixteen years before as a bride. The Queen, who was deeply affected by proofs of attachment, was intensely grateful for all the demonstrations of regard with which she was received on this occasion; and she experienced the greatest happiness in being the "mother" of such a people. How exquisite would have been her feelings could she have foreseen, in the enthusiasm of her people, the regeneration of the nation, and the glory of her own house.

Most affecting was the meeting with her father, who received her at the palace as she descended from her carriage, and enfolded her in his paternal arms. There was at this moment in the beautiful features of the Queen, and especially in her charming eyes, an expression of child-like affection and submission almost celestial. Most touching also was her reunion with those of the royal family who had not quitted the capital during the late adverse circumstances. The meeting of the royal sisters, the Princess of Orange and the Electoral Princess of Hesse, was especially affecting; for they had endured

with singular resignation and calm dignity those weighty calamities which the severe decrees of fate had imposed upon them.

But if the return of the Court to Berlin spread universal delight, the royal family were not unmindful of the privations the people had endured. An instance of this may be given; when the King, in the year 1809, was asked, "whether a certain quantity of champagne should be ordered?" the answer was, "Not yet; not before all my subjects—even the poorest—can afford to drink beer again."

Every possible mode of rendering the return of the royal family to Berlin an epoch of universal festivity was devised. Carriages rolled incessantly to the palace with congratulatory visits. The National Theatre and the Opera-house both exhibited spectacles of enthusiasm seldom equalled, when the King and Queen entered after so long an absence. The city was brilliantly illuminated in every part, according to the means of the population. Music resounded in every street; yet amidst this general demonstration of joy, a melancholy foreboding seemed to pervade the minds of the reflecting. Even in the theatre, during the songs of rejoicing, many voices were heard to exclaim in prophetic melancholy, "God preserve the King!" These feelings were still more apparent during the festivals of the church, where universal thanksgivings were offered up; these were accompanied by donations to the poor, as the best offerings to the Almighty of a grateful people.

The merchants of Berlin gave five thousand dollars to provide a dinner for the poor, in order that they should be included in the festivity. Nothing was done as mere form; the heart was concerned throughout all these manifestations of joy. The King was grave and thoughtful, although sensible of these heartfelt demonstrations of attachment. Being less imaginative than practical in his nature, he saw the necessity of remedying the evils which the interruption in his Government had engendered; and with redoubled labour rather than vain regrets, he applied himself to the re-establishment of order and systematic rule. It was ever the King's most cherished prerogative to extend his royal clemency; and now, on his return, he remitted all the punishments for light offences, and all those whose sentences were six months' imprisonment, or less than a year, he set at liberty. To the poor he gave, through the medium of the proper authorities, five thousand dollars.

No one understood the signs of the times better than Frederic William III. He honoured the wisdom of his ancestors in creating orders and decorations, as distinctions of merit; but he believed that merit was to be found equally in the various classes which composed the nation; not amongst the noble and privileged classes alone. It was in this persuasion that he determined on increasing the "Order of Merit," and pronounced these memorable words, "The estimation which merit of every kind, and in every condition of

life, possesses in my eyes, and in which it is also held by the State, I am determined to reward without distinction of rank. Some orders and decorations confer the right on the wearer, of being considered amongst the first and most honoured in the nation, independent of their relative position in the State. The Order of Merit I am resolved to confer on those who deserve it; therefore I shall, on the 18th of January, the anniversary of the day when Prussia became a kingdom, augment the Order in such proportion as may embrace every class of my subjects, in order that it may be considered a festival throughout the whole kingdom." This was indeed the result; and at a somewhat later period the Iron Cross might be seen even on the breast of the *valet de place*. It entitled him to universal respect, and even ministers took off their hats to him as he passed.

The King was anxious to prove his respect for letters, and to benefit the rising generation by founding a university at Berlin. It appeared an inauspicious moment, as all the elements of order were in chaotic confusion, and required to be reorganized before such an important undertaking could succeed.

The King's intention was met by serious obstacles, as the various contributions which had been levied by the enemy had drained the inhabitants; but he was not to be discouraged. He firmly believed that the blessing of the Almighty would prosper every

good undertaking, and was wont to say, "that supported by a good conscience, when striving to attain legitimate ends, success could not be doubtful." He sought to obtain the preponderance of intellectual over physical power. Prussia has risen in the scale of nations, not only by the extension of her territories and her increase of riches, but by the universal diffusion of intelligence throughout the people. It cannot escape the observation, even of the passing tourist, that Prussia is remarkable for the information and intelligence of the lower classes, which, in comparison with those of other countries, is most striking. This was the result which Frederic William III. was so anxious to attain.

The spring of 1810 was peculiarly mild, and produced a very beneficial result on the health of the Queen. She revisited Paretz, the Peacock Island, and Sans Souci, the scenes of former pleasures; and she busied herself in the delicious, occupation of reading with her children, especially with the Crown-Prince and her intelligent eldest daughter, the Princess Charlotte.

Bishop Eylert says, "I was sometimes present at these charming hours of study. I was astonished at the clearness and dignity of all the Queen's opinions and views, and her zeal for every laudable end: her confidence in the reappearance of better times, became daily more apparent. She assured me she had read with great profit my Sermons, especially those entitled, 'Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?' and

'Have we reason to weep over our own City?' These discourses, with many others on similar subjects, she had read with her children; and she repeated many striking and appropriate passages from works on the same subjects. On merited or unmerited chastening, she spoke with the most christian humility; for both, she declared, brought down a blessing, if humbly supported. The charm of her expressions were enhanced by the sweet tones of her voice and the serenity of her manner.

In everything she said or did, a spirit of philanthropy was apparent; she was severe on none, although most strict herself. She was accustomed to attend the services of the church with great punctuality on Sundays and fête days. In this the King was equally regular. It was a time of real devotion from Lent to the Easter Sunday of this year. The Queen listened with intense interest to the sacred truths which were uttered from the pulpit. It was apparent that she heard with attention, by the effects which these holy and consolatory discourses produced upon her mind.

There were times when the melancholy forebodings which she felt were forgotten. When surrounded by the beauties of nature and art in the gardens of her country residences, she appeared gay and happy.

No one remarked these gleams of her former cheerfulness with greater delight than the King, who was ever most watchful and attentive to whatever concerned her individually. He used to rally her

in his own good-natured, affectionate manner. Nothing could be more agreeable than the exchange of wit and pleasantry which sometimes took place between the royal pair, for it was always tempered on the part of the Queen with affectionate respect, on that of the King with tender regard.

On one of these occasions the King exclaimed with great delight, "The Queen is quite herself to-day. It will be a great blessing, which I shall receive with gratitude, if her mind recover its joyous tone, for she is by nature inclined to cheerfulness. Once she was always gay. Better times are in store for us, I hope and trust."

The military and religious festival, which took place about this time, produced this remark from the King. "We have no reason to celebrate this *fête* with a '*Te Deum laudamus*,' but we may say, '*Dec vetrauen*' and that will be something better; for 'right is right,' and even though oppressed it must one day be triumphant."

At this period Bishop Eylert was requested by the Queen to give his opinion on the system of education adopted for the Crown Prince. He writes, "I have often thought of this subject during my visits to Sans Souci, and with permission, I will not shrink from expressing my candid opinion."

The Queen graciously assented and he continued, "It appears to me that the principal fault lies in educating the Crown Prince as a future King,

and not with reference to his nature as a human being, which requires training and discipline, as much as that of any other fallible being. No one will deny that the King, as the first in the land, ought to be the most highly respected; but this respect can only be secured by the most virtuous and self-denying conduct on his part. A King he may become by inheritance; but virtue and self-government he can only attain by the same course of discipline to which his fellow-mortals are obliged to submit.

"His talents and aptitude for learning are gifts of Nature, which the meanest may possess equally with himself; but self-government, upon which the true principle of governing others is founded, must be the work of education. The future ruler is in danger of slackening in his pursuit of knowledge, by dwelling too much on his future destiny. The privileges of his birth are likely to mislead him as to the extent of his abilities and his duties to his fellow-creatures. The heir of a throne is generally too much isolated in his position, for he ought to know mankind in order to feel as a man. This is difficult; for he is accustomed to be obeyed by all around him as the next in dignity to the King. This will probably make him egotistical. I would therefore recommend that the Director of the Gymnasium should be requested to send four clever, well-disposed boys, without distinction of rank, to be educated with the Crown Prince and royal children:

in order to teach them betimes that neither wealth nor rank, but wisdom and morality constitute the real dignity of man.

"The Queen smiled during this long harangue, and when I apologised for the liberty I had taken in giving my opinion so freely, and hoped I had not offended her, she said, 'No, no, even if I do not agree with you entirely, I have heard you with pleasure, and I beg you to continue.' I replied, 'I am sure that the new palace of Sans Souci would be well adapted for this kind of education.'

"During the conversation the Queen was most attentive to the objections I made to the system of educating the Prince alone; she recurred with great delight to the prospect of education becoming universally diffused by the Pestalozzian method, and she was anxious that I should go to Königsberg to examine the progress the system was making there, in order that schools might be founded on the same principle throughout the kingdom. But it was afterwards decided that the Oberconsistorial Rath, Doctor Natorp should proceed thither instead of me."

Soon after the King's return to Berlin, he had given his subjects fresh proofs of his love and esteem for them, by augmenting the order of the Red Eagle with two additional classes. He had also caused a medal to be struck for the Order of Merit, and the ceremony of inauguration, which was graced by the presence of the Queen, was a source of general festivity. But these rejoicings were not long permitted to remain undis-

turbed. Continual demands were made from Paris for the arrears of an enormous contribution which had been levied on Prussia, and it is well known that France went so far as to threaten to send an army to occupy the whole country, and thus enforce the payment of the arrears. What anxiety the maternal heart of the Queen felt for her subjects under these trying circumstances may be easily conceived.

Although her birthday, on the 10th of March, was celebrated with every mark of affection and respect, she needed great energy of mind to enable her to maintain her composure, and to appear cheerful on that day, for her whole soul was filled with mournful anticipations.

She feared that by the exertion of a despotic will, to which all things seemed to yield, the King might be torn from his subjects; for so bad was the position of affairs in Prussia, that deliverance from its galling yoke seemed as yet impossible. During the congratulations she received on her birthday, she said to some one near her, "I think this will assuredly be the last time I shall celebrate my birthday here." It was indeed the last time. The Almighty had determined to try her people, by snatching this sweet symbol of loveliness and virtue from earth, and taking it to himself.

About this time, the dangerous illness of her youngest daughter Louisa, who already bore a striking resemblance to her mother, was a new source

of anxiety. As the Princess became convalescent, the Queen was taken seriously ill, with a violent cough, attended with much fever, and she was confined for many days to her bed. She also suffered from those spasms of the chest, which afterwards caused her removal from this to a better world. Whilst we speak of the Queen's anxiety for the life of her youngest daughter Louisa, we must not forget, that although her whole heart appeared to be engrossed by fervent affection and anxiety for her children, her mind, during this, the last winter of her existence, had been so painfully agitated by the affairs of State, that her constitution was completely undermined. She now manifested increased interest in the moral and intellectual development of the Crown Prince and her eldest daughter, the Princess Charlotte; for as they were advancing beyond childhood, they more particularly excited her maternal sympathy, and required greater watchfulness; and every germ of the good, the true, and the beautiful, which she saw expanding in their minds, filled her maternal heart with the purest delight.

This intense anxiety for her children, during the latter period of her existence, would also seem to indicate a dark, though undefined presentiment of her approaching departure. As the weather became milder, the Queen's health slightly improved; and towards the end of April, she took up her residence in Potsdam, where the King had already preceded

her. She became stronger from this change of air, and her features again assumed their radiant expression.

Before the Queen left Berlin, she received the sacrament from her chaplain, the Prebendary Ribbech, in the Church of St. Nicholas. It was during the Easter festival which fell very late this year. On this occasion the Queen manifested such a perfect abnegation of everything earthly, such fervent charity and love for all those who partook of the holy sacrament with her, that it seemed literally to be what it was in its divine institution,—a real farewell and love feast.

On the second day of Whitsuntide, 1810, the King and Queen were enjoying the cool spring morning, on the open terrace at Sans Souci, which is adorned with antique busts, chiefly of the Roman Emperors, when the Queen stopped, and gazing on them, said, "Have you ever remarked that many of these busts have a striking resemblance to the Emperor Napoleon, the mighty conqueror of our times?" The King replied by a bitter smile; and the Queen continued, "Come here, and observe this profile of the bust of Nero; there is a great resemblance to Napoleon, only his lips are more contracted and more beautiful than these."

This observation gave her an opportunity of speaking on a subject of which her heart was full. She said, "The present aspect of things proves the preponderance of physical power; for even if I

admit that somewhat of the intellectual is combined with it, yet it has no moral influence. It is not founded on the will of the nation; for the people are not consulted, and on the contrary, are oppressed, discontented, and unhappy. The freedom of which the French boast so much is, in fact, only slavery; for the general good is lost sight of in the insatiable ambition of one man. His iron rule is not felt so much whilst its results are fortunate; but this unnatural and despotic power cannot long endure. Nature will assert her rights. We feel this must be the case, but we are not ready for action. The time must come, but we, alas! may die before it arrives. Napoleon is a scourge in the hand of Providence, and when he is no longer needed for this purpose he will be cast away 'as a brand for the burning.'" Turning to the Bishop, she said, "This you have told us in the words of the sacred volume, and your sermons since Easter have greatly comforted me. Let them be printed, and dedicate them to me. The King will also be gratified by this. When I return from Mecklenburg you shall read them to us; as I am anticipating the joy of visiting my dear father in his own capital." This desire possessed her mind so strongly that it became absolutely necessary to gratify it before the time which had been appointed for her journey.

For some years past, it had been the most ardent wish of the Queen to visit her father in Strelitz. Since "she had belonged to Prussia,"

as she was wont to express it, she had slept but one night under her paternal roof, and that was on a very mournful occasion. In the month of September, 1803, she had made a rapid journey to Ludwigslust, in order to see the Hereditary Princess of Schwerin, the Grand-Duchess Helena of Russia, who was then on the point of death. The Queen had been intimately acquainted with her during her winter's residence in Berlin, and the amiable and attractive qualities of the Princess awakened a corresponding degree of affection on the part of the Queen. As her illness increased, she experienced a longing desire that they should meet once more. The Queen hastened to her expiring friend. On her return from Ludwigslust, the King and Queen had passed one night at Hohenzieritz, the country residence of her father, the Duke of Mecklenburg, but they merely passed through Strelitz; and she now wished to become acquainted with the principal objects of interest in the hereditary capital of her father and her family.

On the Queen's return from Pyrmont, in 1806, it had been arranged that she should visit her father, to celebrate his birthday, which occurred in the early part of October; but fate had ordained that she should endure many and severe trials before she should again behold her father in Strelitz. The month of October in that year was marked by the distressing events which have been already related.

Now that the Queen was once more near her beloved father, after so many and such long-continued afflictions, the same ardent desire to visit him in Strelitz was rekindled in her bosom. Since the year 1806 she had not seen her maternal grandmother (the widow of George, Landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt), by whom she had been brought up, who resided with her step-son, the Duke of Mecklenburg, and whom she had always regarded with filial tenderness.

This journey to Strelitz was now become an object of such absorbing interest to the Queen, that at length it was definitively fixed for the 25th of June. It was arranged that she was to remain eight days with her father in the bosom of her own family, and in the enjoyment of purely domestic felicity. The King promised to join this delightful re-union three days later. Those who were about the Queen recal with great emotion the expressions of delight she uttered when this journey was definitively fixed. Hers was a touching and childlike joy. She could scarcely await the day named for her departure. The Queen was to proceed to Strelitz, where she was to be joined by the King, and thence to proceed with him and the whole ducal family to Hohenzieritz, which he greatly admired on account of its remarkably beautiful situation.

The Queen commenced her journey from Charlottenburg very early on the morning of the 25th of June, and passed through Oranienburg to Fursten-

burg, the first town within the territory of Strelitz, where the Duke her father, and the Princess Frederica of Solms-Braunfels, her youngest sister, with both her brothers, had repaired to meet her; her aged grandmother was too feeble to encounter so much fatigue, but awaited her beloved grand-daughter in Strelitz. During the journey, which was rapidly performed, the Queen appeared outwardly tranquil; but it was remarked by those who were in the carriage with her, that as soon as she arrived within the frontiers of Mecklenburg, this cheerful serenity gave place to a striking degree of gravity, which soon became profound melancholy; and here also the idea presents itself, that a dark presentiment of approaching dissolution pervaded her soul, and painfully and powerfully agitated her at the moment when she felt so deeply how strong were those ties of affection which bound her to earth.

The Queen's reception by the ducal family in Furstenburg was an unexpected pleasure; and as her carriage entered the court of the palace, and she saw her beloved relations standing at the entrance, her emotions of sadness increased, and amidst her flowing tears, she exclaimed, "Ah! there is my father," and hastened from the carriage into his paternal arms. He led her into the palace, where she soon regained her wonted serenity. About five o'clock, accompanied by her father, her brothers and sister, the Queen entered an open carriage, and arrived

amidst the loudest acclamations of the assembled people, about seven in the evening, at Strelitz.

No pompous preparations had been made to receive her; but flowers and evergreens, which the people had arranged after their own fancy, were tastefully disposed, to create a pleasing impression on the Queen's mind, on her entrance into her father's capital, and to shew her that the day was regarded as a fête by all classes.

No words could convey the impression which was made by the Queen. To understand it thoroughly, her whole being, her pure and child-like nature must be understood. "Our joy at her presence was as indescribable," says Adam Müller, "as our sorrow for her irreparable loss."

At the entrance of the palace she was received by her grandmother. She had not seen her for some years, for the Landgravine had not been able, on account of her great age, to accompany the Duke to Berlin, on the occasion of the public entry of his daughter from Königsberg. The moment the Queen saw her, she sprang from the carriage into the arms of this beloved and faithful guardian of her childhood, and both wept tears of joy, mingled with an unaccountable sensation of deep sadness.

As the Queen wished to spend the greater part of her time in the domestic circle of her own family, one day only was allotted for a public reception, and on the 27th a Court was held. When the Queen

made her appearance, every one was enchanted with her at the first glance. The majesty, the gentleness, the suavity of her manner, are not to be described. She seemed a being tried and approved, whose ordeal was already passed, and who was only bound to earth by ties of strong affection for its inhabitants.

The words of an eye witness are these:—"I had not seen her for seven years, and she might have appeared in many eyes more lovely when I last saw her, but to me she had only now arrived at perfection. Her beautiful and noble features wore the impress of deep affliction, and when she cast her eyes upwards, they expressed, perhaps involuntarily, a longing for her native home in heaven. She greeted me as an old acquaintance, and all her expressions manifested her joy at being her father's guest, encircled by her family. After dinner I was standing with some ladies of her intimate acquaintance, and as she came towards us we admired her pearls. 'I prize them very much also,' said she, 'and have retained them only of all my jewels; for circumstances required I should give up my brilliants. Pearls are more suitable for me, for they signify tears, and I have shed so many.' She shewed us the King's miniature with emotion—'It is the one that resembles him the most of any I possess,' continued she, 'therefore I always wear it.' A young friend of the Queen's, whose bodily infirmities prevented her from appearing at Court, obtained permission to come to her before noon, and was received with the same cordiality the Queen

used formerly to manifest to her; and with the sincerity and frankness which distinguished her, the Queen spoke of her past sufferings and her many bitter trials. Every thing which this noble woman communicated in confidence to her friend, completely proved that she had come forth out of all her trials and afflictions a heroine, and that unmerited misfortunes might destroy her health and shorten her life, but could not crush her spirit or debase her mind."

On the following day, the 28th of June, the King arrived, and was received by the Queen with manifestations of delight. She declared many times her extreme happiness in seeing her husband her father's guest, and in finding herself at home, as a daughter of the house of Mecklenburg. The family were assembled in the Duke's apartment, and all accompanied the King to see the chapel of the palace, except the Queen and her eldest brother. They had been some time engaged in cheerful conversation, when she exclaimed in the fulness of her heart— "Dear George, now at last I am completely happy!" And sitting down to her father's writing-table, she wrote the following lines:—

"Mon cher père,

"Je suis bien heureuse aujourd'hui comme votre fille, et comme l'épouse du meilleur des époux!

"LOUISE.

"Neu-Strelitz,
"ce 28 Juin, 1810."

These were the last words she ever wrote, and have become sacred relics to her family. It may appear strange that this thoroughly German Princess should have written her inmost feelings in a foreign language, and not in the powerful and touchingly expressive language of her own people. But old, though fading illusions, had influenced her education, and the long habits of her youth governed her riper years. It is, nevertheless, certain that in spirit and truth she was a genuine German.

Towards evening the Court left Strelitz for Hohenzieritz, as the King wished to spend the short time allotted to his visit, in the country. The Queen was indisposed when she arrived; a violent catarrh had already manifested itself, attended with feverish symptoms: but as she was accustomed to make light of any temporary indisposition, she remained with the King and Ducal family. Being obliged, however, to retire early, it was remarked that the Queen was evidently very ill. On the 29th she suffered from pain in the head and great oppression; nevertheless she appeared at the dinner-table, but was obliged to retire soon afterwards to her chamber. Towards evening she appeared somewhat better; and as she never interrupted the pleasures of others, and frequently promoted them at the sacrifice of her own feelings, she descended to the garden to drink tea in the family circle. It was the last time they were all united in cheerful festivity, and none anticipated the fearful blow which was impending over them.

The little spot where the Queen last walked was henceforth hallowed ground, and has been consecrated by a suitable monument to her memory.

The Queen was obliged to retire early, for she was to accompany the King (who never willingly passed a day without her society) to Rheinsberg the next morning. Notwithstanding her indisposition, she was unwilling to alter this arrangement, so accustomed was she to consult the wishes of her husband rather than her own. As yet no physician had been consulted; but as she awoke early next day with a violent fever and distressing cough, the Duke sent for his own physician from Strelitz. The Hofrath, Doctor Hieronymi arrived, and declared, notwithstanding the Queen's objections, to alter the King's arrangements, that she could not travel unless she meant to expose herself to the most dangerous consequences.

The King now resolved to await the progress of the disorder at Hohenzieritz.

On the following evening, being considerably worse, and feeling much oppression on the chest, she expressed an earnest desire to be bled. Doctor Hieronymi deferred it until the next morning, and the Queen awaited the moment with impatience. During the bleeding, which took place in the presence of the Princess of Solms, and one female attendant only, she fell into a deep swoon, from which, however, she soon rallied. This was on Sunday the 1st of July. On the following day, she appeared so much

relieved, that the King, whose presence in Berlin was required on many important matters, arranged to set off thither early on the morrow, Tuesday the 3rd. Alas! he little anticipated that he should only behold his beloved consort again in the hour of death! He left Hohenzieritz, with the hope of returning in a few days, to accompany his convalescent consort to Berlin. The Queen's condition, on the following day, was much worse, for her cough was incessant, accompanied by increased fever. Her mind, however, remained perfectly tranquil, and she bore her sleepless nights with the most exemplary patience, frequently repeating hymns to beguile the weary hours, which she had learned in her childhood. It was hoped that a favourable crisis might take place on the ninth day of the disease, and the violence of the disorder did seem to abate in the course of the week; the fever became less severe, and the cough less distressing; still the invalid remained in a state of great exhaustion, frequently fainting during the exertion of rising, and even when her couch was being arranged. Her attendants now observed, that she seemed more anxious and serious in this than in any former illness.

As her chamber lay towards the south, and was consequently very warm, her father ceded to her his own bedchamber, in a lower story of the palace. But she was obliged to be carried thither, and, as in the necessary haste, there was no time to re-arrange the room, the Queen was placed on her father's bed,

which, by the inscrutable decrees of the Almighty, she only exchanged for her eternal bed of rest.

During the progress of the disorder, she was always affectionate, gentle, and patient, preferring to be alone, or with few around her, for the presence of many persons excited and oppressed her.

With her grandmother she often referred to occurrences of her early youth, and she dwelt much on recollections of her mother, whose image had never faded from her mind, and whose memory she had ever cherished with emotions of gratitude.

On the eleventh or twelfth day of her disease, the cause of the violent fever and oppression manifested itself; an abscess on the lungs broke, and the discharge was very considerable. The Hofrath Hieronymi, and the Privy Counsellor, Doctor Heim, who had been sent by the King, to bring him personal information of the Queen's condition, both agreed that the patient might now be saved, if other abscesses did not form. Heim returned to Berlin, and Hieronymi continued to forward daily accounts of the progress of the disorder to the King, who had been prevented by illness from returning to Strelitz.

A letter from her eldest daughter, the Princess Charlotte, written on her birthday, in which she expressed her childish grief at the absence of her beloved mother, agitated the Queen so violently, that she was never able to listen to its conclusion.

The Queen's own physician, the State Counsellor

Hufeland, had been sent for previously by the King of Holland, and was on his journey at the time of her illness, and the Privy Counsellor Heim, conceiving that the crisis of the disorder was past, and the danger over, had returned to Berlin; but the symptoms of amendment unhappily proved delusive, they were only caused by the Queen's cheerfulness, and great strength of mind. Her spirits, in this illness, were so independent of her bodily sufferings, that during the few intervals of respite from the violence of the cough, when she was able to speak in low tones, and in broken sentences, to those around her, they were astonished at the clearness and strength of her mind, which displayed the same coherence and power as in the days of her most perfect health. The connexion of her ideas was not in the least disturbed by her sufferings. The objects which most interested her in life, still continued to occupy her attention—her husband, her children, and whatever had reference to the affairs of the political world at that period. The King's indisposition at Charlottenburg, painfully affected her. She lamented that she was not there to nurse him, as she was accustomed to do, so cheerfully and willingly. She said it was a hard fate that decreed they should both be indisposed at the same time; and she spoke of the possibility of being removed to Charlottenburg. A letter which she had received from the King, affected her so much, that she laid it upon her heart, and would not allow it to be taken away,

in order that she might read, and re-read it, in every interval of ease. Of the Crown Prince, and her other children, she spoke continually, and every report that arrived from Charlottenburg, was required to contain minute particulars concerning them.

Her thoughts were also busied in affectionate cares for the other members of the royal family, and especially at this moment for the Princess William, who had gone to the baths of Wiesbaden for the benefit of her health, and had proposed to spend a few weeks afterwards with her parents at Homberg. The Queen knew the Princess intended to return to Berlin for the celebration of the King's birth-day, which was on the 3rd of August, and as she foresaw that her illness would prevent her own return to Charlottenburg by that time, or at all events that no festival would take place, she lamented that the Princess William should be separated from her beloved relations without the object of her return being accomplished. She therefore caused a letter to be sent to Prince Louis of Homburg, who was then at Berlin, requesting him to dispatch an estafette to his sister, with the news of her continued illness, and consequently deferred return to Charlottenburg, and with the recommendation from her, that the Princess should remain at Homburg some time longer.

During this period, the news reached her of the resignation of the King of Holland, brother of the French Emperor. The causes which had induced him to take this step, namely, the occupation

of Holland by French troops, and the various despotic acts of Napoleon, were to her continuous signs of the gloomy state of public affairs, which filled her soul with sadness. The events which were progressing in Sweden, the confusion of affairs there, the revolt of Stockholm, the murder of Count Fersen, and every other political information which arrived during her illness, occupied her attention, and she caused the newspapers to be read to her daily. Her affectionate heart was grieved by the account of a conflagration in Paris, which broke out at a fête given by Prince Schwartzenberg; and she was deeply affected by the maternal heroism and agonising death of the Princess Pauline von Schwartzenberg, who had been one of the friends of her childhood.

Letters arrived from Berlin daily, expressing the most sincere interest for the Queen, and every proof of sympathy thus manifested was especially consoling to her feelings. Many of these letters she caused to be read to her; one from the Princess Louisa (by marriage Princess Radzivill), contained such affectionate sympathy for her sufferings, expressed in so pathetic a manner, that it called forth the warmest sensations of gratitude on the part of the Queen.

The Empress of Austria, who was at this moment at the baths of Töplitz, testified her lively participation in the general anxiety, by a letter in which she expressed her deep regret in the Queen's illness. The Queen was greatly pleased by this warm interest,

and expressed a strong desire to make the personal acquaintance of the Empress.

Every care and attention from those around, she acknowledged with emotion. Her sister, the Princess of Solms, scarcely quitted her bedside, and had a way of soothing her sufferings, by anticipating her slightest wish, and comprehending her smallest sign, that was fully appreciated by the Queen, who often expressed her grateful feelings; but as she saw the health of the Princess was sensibly affected by this continual fatigue of mind and body, she regulated herself the hours of her sister's repose. She was also very anxious that the health of her father and grandmother should not suffer through anxiety on her account. The Queen's days and nights were equally passed without sleep, yet she continued cheerful. Those who were about her at night were aware of the activity of her mind by the questions she asked; and there were even moments in which a vein of pleasantry was apparent in her remarks. It was this mental serenity which caused all who were unable to judge of the progress of the disorder by medical experience, to indulge the illusion that a near and fatal crisis was not to be apprehended.

Towards the end of this week the symptoms were evidently ameliorated; she had more appetite and slept better. Saturday the 14th, and Sunday the 15th were days that inspired hopes of her speedy recovery; but the inscrutable decree of the Almighty

was otherwise. About nine o'clock on Monday morning the 16th, whilst the newspapers were being read to her, the Queen was attacked with such violent spasms in the chest, that during the five hours they lasted, her life was in continual danger. After this, the physician Hieronymi no longer entertained the slightest hope, and the Queen herself declared, that during the attack she believed her end was near. Hieronymi now declared that the spasms of the chest were caused by an organic disease of the heart, and considered himself bound to prepare the Duke for the impending blow. The venerable parent received the intelligence with christian composure and resignation, but with the deepest sorrow. Couriers were dispatched to accelerate the arrival of the King, who was not expected before Friday the 20th.

Heim arrived on Tuesday, the 17th, accompanied by the Surgeon-General Göricke, and Surgeons Schmidt and Wiebal. They all agreed in Hieronymi's opinion, and declared the Queen would never leave Hohenzieritz alive. She had another attack of spasms on the morning of the 17th, but less violent, every known remedy being employed to assuage their effects. Still the Queen seemed to apprehend no danger. She received a letter from the King at this time, and her delight was so great, that she exclaimed many times, "What a letter! ah, what a joy it is to receive such a letter!" Her desire to see the King was intense, and she thought it so long to

wait until Friday, that she received the intelligence of his speedy arrival with absolute rapture.

The afternoon of Tuesday was calm; but the night was sleepless, and attended with violent fever; yet her mind remained firm and unruffled; and she placed the greatest reliance on the remedies employed to prevent the return of the spasms.

In all her sufferings she was ever the same,—patient during the pain, and thanking God with the pious simplicity of a child when she experienced any relief. The transient nature of all human greatness she expressed thus truly and forcibly, "Of what avail is all earthly greatness? I am a Queen, but I cannot move my own arms."

Wednesday, the 18th, passed with intermitting spasms; but during the short intervals of suffering, although her respiration was difficult, the calm and clear expression which still beamed in her eyes, rendered it almost impossible to believe her dissolution to be so near. Every remedy was tried to prevent the spasms, but without effect. The Queen sighed at times and said, "Air! air!" but not a sign of impatience escaped her, although she had violent fever, and earnestly longed to assuage her continual thirst. She complained very gently of her present condition. The Princess of Solms said to her, "Dear Louisa, dost thou suffer much?" The Queen replied, "Ah no! but such a cessation of existence." She asked, "Whether the sun would soon rise?" and "Whether it would be a dull or bright day?" She

was told it was a clouded morning: and she who loved the warm sunshine so well, was thankful; for she hoped a cool day might bring some mitigation to the violence of her fever.

On Wednesday night, the 18th, the first apprehension of death seemed to enter her mind. Thoughtfully, and with her finger uplifted, she said to Heim, who was sitting near her bed, "Oh! if I were to be taken from the King and my children!" She thought only of her beloved ones, not of herself; she did not utter an expression of regret for thus perishing in the bloom of life. Up to this time she had manifested no apprehension of her approaching dissolution.

The night of the 18th commenced tranquilly, and the Queen had some sleep; the whole family were watching, except the Duke, who by desire of the doctors, had retired to his bed to repose, not to sleep. About three o'clock, in the morning of the 19th, the Queen became very restless, and the spasms returned. They called the Duke as he had desired; and when he received the intelligence of her approaching dissolution, he said devoutly, "Lord, thy ways are not our ways." About four o'clock, the King, with his two elder sons, arrived. The extreme danger of his expiring consort had only been announced to him during his journey. Up to that time, through a mistaken idea of sparing his feelings, its extent had been concealed from him.

Immediately on awakening, the Queen spoke of

the King, who, she had been told, would arrive on the following day; and she now lamented that he would find her so ill. Her ardent desire to see him momentarily increased; and at last the Privy Counsellor Heim, announced his arrival. The King had asked on entering the palace, the real state of the Queen; and had received from the physicians the terrible reply, that, according to human experience, there was no hope. The King on receiving this mournful intelligence made a great effort to preserve his outward composure. How much his feelings were lacerated is apparent from his reply to the Queen's grandmother, who endeavoured to console him, by reminding him that the Queen still lived, and therefore there was hope; for that to God's almighty power nothing was impossible. "Oh!" said he, "if she were not *mine*, she might recover; but as she is *my* wife, she will certainly die." The King immediately repaired to the chamber of his dying consort. He embraced her with intense affection; but he trembled violently, and could not speak from excess of emotion. The Queen, who had never seen his firmness shaken, nor any exhibition of weakness during their misfortunes, was agitated by the sight of his emotion. She said to him, "Why art thou so agitated? Am I then in such great danger?" The King, seeing the necessity of tranquillizing her, endeavoured to suppress his own feelings, and assured her that he was thus agitated, because he saw how much she had suffered, but that he entertained sanguine hopes, adding,

"God be praised that I am here." Tears of joy now streamed from the Queen's eyes. She said, "How didst thou come? Not in an open carriage, I hope, with thy fever?" The King replied in the affirmative. "Who came with thee?" "Fritz and Wilhelm," replied the King. "Oh, what joy! to see my dear children," said the Queen.

The King no longer able to control his feelings, retired for a few minutes on pretext of bringing to her their two sons. Whilst he was absent, the Queen said to her attendant, who was now alone with her, "I had promised myself much delight in the arrival of my husband, and I am thankful that he is here, but his arrival has agitated me greatly. His embrace was so fervent—so wild—that it seemed as if he would take his last farewell;—as if he were sure I was dying. Tell him he must not be so agitated, or I shall die immediately."

The King now returned with his two sons. The Queen exclaimed, "My dear Fritz! my dear Wilhelm!" but could not say more to them at that moment. The noble youths wept in silence by the couch of their expiring mother, who gazed upon them with eyes full of maternal affection. She then endeavoured to question them about their brothers and sisters, but her spasms returned and the young Princes were obliged to retire: the King remained.

The last meeting of the King and Queen and their sons has been thus simply and touchingly

described by an eye-witness: "The King, who had been already apprized of the certainty of her approaching dissolution, seemed bowed to the earth with anguish. All that he had hitherto endured was as nothing compared to this great calamity, and could not be paralleled to the agony of the present moment. The spasms occasionally left a few moments of respite for the sufferer, and the King remained some time quite alone with his expiring consort. But as the hour of death drew nigh, the spasms returned. The King opened the door and called in the physicians; every remedy was employed, but in vain, the spasms increased. The fatal moment approached; the whole family were assembled in the Queen's chamber; the King held her right hand; the Princess of Solms, kneeling on the other side, held her left. The three doctors, Heim, Hieronymi and Göricke stood near the bed. The Queen complained of want of air, and Hieronymi advised her to stretch out her arms and lie higher. She replied, 'That I cannot do,' and the doctor came to her assistance. For a moment she remained in this position; then sinking down again, she said: 'That does not relieve me either; for me there is no relief but in death.' After a little time, she exclaimed, 'Lord Jesus, shorten my sufferings!' she breathed one deep sigh, and then expired. God called her soul gently back to him, and the sweet form which had been animated by it remained in

calm repose, like a blessed spirit sunk in profound sleep. It was nine o'clock on the morning of the 19th of July.

"What courage, what faith, and what pious resignation to the will of her heavenly Father, must have filled a mind, so unexpectedly summoned to renounce all that was most dear in life, and to have enabled her thus to resign her spirit with such pious submission to the care of her Redeemer.

"The King had sunk backwards overwhelmed with grief, but quickly recovering himself, he rose up, and with an expression of anguish which none present could ever forget, kissed the beloved lips and closed those eyes for ever, whose bright beams had so faithfully and affectionately illumined his gloomy path through life. He then withdrew, but quickly returned with his sons, who broke out into the most passionate lamentations; they threw themselves on their knees before the death-bed of their now beatified mother, and bedewed her hands with their scalding tears; the grief of her relatives was intense; they shed incessant floods of tears. Her eldest brother, by whom she had ever been most tenderly loved, seemed so wholly absorbed in grief that he appeared abstracted from this world. A respectful stillness reigned in the presence of the august remains, for none profaned the hallowed chamber of death. The sorrow for her loss was worthy of the pure and tranquil soul which had now soared to heaven. The beautiful features of the

Queen had never been distorted for a moment during her whole illness, not even during the last convulsion; and now, in death, such was their serene expression that it would be utterly impossible to describe the calm glory that appeared to rest on her countenance, especially on her brow. About the mouth there lay somewhat which seemed to say, 'it is finished,' but with a gentle and subdued expression of joy. Her sweet features made death itself beautiful. When the King and the Duke met, they fell into each other's arms, and remained long in close embrace; they both felt that their hearts had received a deep and incurable wound. Half an hour later, the Princess Charlotte and Prince Charles arrived, in the hope of finding their mother yet living. Their father received them and led them himself to the corpse, which he could scarcely bear to quit for a moment. In the deepest anguish they knelt by the death-bed of their angelic mother, overwhelmed in grief.

"The King remained almost constantly in the chamber of death. The Crown Prince returned again and again. In the presence of others, the King endeavoured to control the agony of his grief, which took the most natural direction, in manifestations of affection for his children.

"In the afternoon of the 19th, both of the King's sisters arrived, the Princesses of Orange and Hesse; they were inconsolable, and threw themselves upon the body of the late Queen and, kissing her hands,

exclaimed, 'She was ever a good sister to us, and such as we shall never find again.' Such expressions of affection were uniform from every one; for she had been all in all to those about her, and had by her affectionate disposition attracted all hearts.

"On the following morning the autopsy of the body took place in the presence of Hieronymi and the other physicians. They found several polypous excrescences in the heart, which had grown into it with two thick branches. Hieronymi's opinion was therefore only too true. That noble heart, which had so magnanimously determined to forget its own sufferings, was destroyed by the burning and intense anguish it endured for the fate of the Fatherland.

"Reconciled with all the world, in peace with God, with the name of her Redeemer on her lips, the royal sufferer died of a broken heart!

"The Queen's body remained six days longer in Hohenzieritz. During that period, the chamber where the august corpse lay was the only sanctuary for the passionate and agonizing distress which had overpowered all belonging to her. There, even yet, she was not wholly taken from them, and the indescribable glory which seemed to beam around her countenance consoled and tranquillized all who beheld her.

"On the 20th, in the afternoon, the King and his family quitted Hohenzieritz, and the remains of his beautiful consort followed on the 25th, accompanied to the frontiers by her father's attendants.

"What a contrast! with garlands of flowers and

other demonstrations of joy she had been received; with the gloomy trappings of woe she was accompanied on her return. At the forest of pines on the frontiers, the Prussian escort received the body. Heavily rolled the bier over the bridge, and disappeared. It was exactly one month after she had arrived in apparently blooming health in Strelitz, that she was removed from Hohenzieritz a corpse! The sun arose in all his radiancy, whilst her remains were being conveyed to the tomb, and seemed a presage of the bright glory which surrounded her spirit in heaven. But to the bereaved, the sun of their existence was eclipsed—that sun, which had with such infinite love attracted them, and around which they had moved in love, had disappeared and left them in the deepest gloom of eternal regret. The Queen's youngest brother, Prince Charles, absorbed in the most profound grief, accompanied the royal corpse to Berlin. Two days afterwards, in the presence of the King and all the royal family, it was consigned in the simplest, but most touching manner, to its temporary resting place in the Royal Cathedral Church. We return," continues the narrative, "to busy life again; but the deep impression left in our souls no lapse of time or change of circumstances can efface. All earthly power and grandeur perishes; even beauty fades and becomes dust; but virtue, pure intentions, and heavenly love exist for ever:—they proceed from God, and return again to him."

On the 23rd of December, 1810, at four o'clock in the morning, being the anniversary of the day on which the Queen had entered Berlin as a bride, seventeen years before, and also the anniversary of the day on which she was restored, after so many afflictions, the mournful and honourable duty again devolved on Prince Charles, of accompanying the royal corpse, surrounded by a detachment of guards, from the Cathedral of Berlin to its final resting place at Charlottenburg.

The early death of the Queen was felt as a calamity throughout the whole nation; those who knew her personally were absorbed in grief. The King was inconsolable: the very sight of his children kept alive the deep sense of his affliction. The warm heart on which he had relied for sympathy and consolation during all the hard and bitter trials he had endured, was now cold in death; and the sense of his loneliness became daily more insupportable. To be condemned to mental solitude after having known the blessings of a reciprocal attachment founded on mutual esteem and respect, was a sorrow that the cares and duties of Government, well fulfilled as they were by the King, could not dissipate. The occupations of his high station became irksome; every thing wearied and disgusted him. It was not in his nature to seek *distraction;* he was more inclined to fall into the error of doubting that "all things work together for good." His regard for the memory of the Queen was proved in every possible way. The last words

she had written were humbly begged of the King by the Privy Counsellor Heim, but he replied, "No; what the beloved and never-to-be-forgotten last wrote, I cannot allow to go out of my own possession; it will be cherished by me as my best and greatest treasure; but I will copy it for you." He did so, and gave it as a remembrance to Heim. He soon after sunk into a species of apathy, from which it was difficult to rouse him; yet he did not neglect his duties as a Sovereign. He was at that time a handsome man of forty, in the flower of his age and vigour of his intellect, but plunged in such deep sorrow, that it was remarked of him by a contemporary prince, "There is a man who loved his wife from the depth of his soul, and who cherishes her image with such a sorrow as scarcely man ever felt before."

The portrait of the Queen which most resembled her, he almost worshipped; he had it copied, adding rays around the head to denote immortality. He was most eager to show his regard for her memory by some scheme of benevolence. He said to Bishop Eylert, "I wish you would connect something with the Discourses she wished you to print and dedicate to her, which will perpetuate her memory; I mean some benevolent institution. I have something floating in my mind, but nothing distinct. Reflect on this subject, and give me your ideas, which if I approve, may be carried out at once." "I knew," continues the Bishop, "the difficulties of this undertaking, for the late Queen stood so high in public

opinion, that almost any mode I could suggest of doing honour to her memory would seem insufficient. At length I proposed to the King, that in memory of their happy union, three bridal couples should receive one hundred dollars each as outfit on their marriage, which should take place at nine in the morning, on the 19th of July in each year, the hour and day of the Queen's lamented death; the young couples to be selected from the best and most esteemed of their class, and the funds to be provided by the publication and sale of a discourse to be delivered on the anniversary of the Queen's death, in the Garrison Church; and if this proved insufficient, the amount to be made up by voluntary subscription."

The King was pleased to signify his approbation of this idea; the public were also favourable to it, and thus the "*Louisen denkmal,*" at Potsdam was commenced, and has continued to the present time. The funds have occasionally been so augmented, that six couples instead of three, have received the dowry, and it appears to be increasing in favour with the public. The King took much interest in this institution, and appointed his eldest daughter, Charlotte, its patroness, and after her marriage the Princess Louisa (now Princess Frederick of the Netherlands) succeeded her sister.

Every benevolent object was sure to be approved of by the King, especially those that were associated with the memory of the beloved departed. The institution, which was known by the name of the

Louisen-stiftung, in Berlin, was an undertaking of far greater importance than the *Louisen denkmal;* according to its original intention, it was to have been a seminary for the education of governesses, and also an institution for improving the condition of the female sex, which was peculiarly consonant to the ideas and wishes of the late Queen. It is a matter of regret that this institution was not carried out in its widest extent, for the King interested himself greatly, and the public took a proportionate interest in it; but it was attempted on too large a scale, and only a part of its original intention has been effected, namely, the seminary for educating preceptresses; and this, by the blessing of God, has been very successful. Its patroness is now her Majesty, the present amiable Queen of Prussia.

Many other methods were devised for perpetuating the memory of the departed Queen. A monument, with a suitable inscription, was erected at Grandsee, on the spot where the remains of the sainted Queen rested on their transit from Hohenzieritz to Berlin. This memorial was consecrated in the presence of the deputies of the adjacent towns and a concourse of people on the 19th of October, 1811. The King desired General Minutoli, with his pupil, Prince Charles, to be present at this solemn service. The silence of deep regret and the devotion exhibited by the multitude, as with uncovered heads they sang the hymns of inauguration, and listened to the discourse pronounced by the Preacher Hartman, were sufficient

proofs of the love and veneration in which the Queen's memory was held. Prince Charles was well fitted for attending this ceremony, as he was very quick in adapting himself to every position of life, although so young.*

The veneration for the memory of the Queen was not weakened, when the re-action which she had predicted, took place throughout Europe. When the King, in his turn, became triumphant, his first impulse was to return thanks to Almighty God in the name of his freed people, as well as for himself. His next impulse was to repair to Charlottenburg to the tranquil spot where his lost treasure lay. The acclamations of a rejoicing and triumphant army he heard without emotion; and he went in silent sorrow to the mausoleum of his departed Queen. In the deepest

* An anecdote in proof of this may be cited.—On an occasion when invited by a party of military officers to dine with them after a review, the banquet took place in a hall hung round with portraits of celebrated generals who were distinguished during the Seven Years' War. When the toast of the King's health was proposed, an unexpected salute of artillery was given so near, that many of the guests started. The Landrath von Zlethen, remarked to the Prince, "Your Royal Highness does not seem to be startled by cannon." He replied, looking round the room at the portraits of those heroes among whom were some of his ancestors, and then glancing with great presence of mind and ready wit at the company, "At least *I am not* in such company." An answer worthy of a Hohenzollern. He was then but eleven years old.

emotion he uncovered his head, and laid on the sarcophagus of his beloved Louisa the laurel which he had brought with him for that purpose. He lingered long in this sacred spot, where the vicinity of the mortal remains of the beloved ever inspired him with such deep devotion; and when he quitted the place, he said—"The Lord has helped us hitherto, now the watchword is 'Forward.'"

After the glorious campaign, which ended in the capitulation of Paris, he returned without any demonstration of triumph, and traversed the tranquil valleys of Switzerland, accompanied by his faithful subject, the General von Witzleben, silently occupied with thoughts of the departed Queen. Leaving the high road, he sought the retired village of Colombieres, in order to gratify the dictates of his heart, by visiting Mademoiselle Gellieu, the good old preceptress of his late beloved consort. So many years had elapsed since he had seen her, and so many important subjects had occupied his attention, that the King had scarcely found an opportunity of proving to her that she was remembered. He had written her a few lines from Neufchâtel, but this was not sufficient, he thought, to shew his respect for her who had been so devoted to his beloved Louisa in her youth. He did not forget that he was indebted to her for the high principles she had inculcated, and he resolved to pay her a visit. Her surprize was great, when she saw the King enter her modest little apartment. He spoke to her with emotion of his lost consort, and

principally of her early youth; then pressing the hand of the venerable lady with respect, he left her a considerable present in money, and, with delicate attention, added a very handsome shawl which the late Queen had worn just before her death. He had brought this sacred relic with him from Charlottenburg for that purpose. Such were the feelings which animated him, that he seemed only to find relief in seeking occasions to honour her memory.

It was on his return from Paris, that the King said to General von Witzleben with a deep sigh, "Ah! if the lamented Queen had lived to see this time of honourable triumph! How incomprehensible that she should have died thus early, and not have been allowed a glimpse of the better times she predicted." Witzleben replied, that every thing that had happened was for the best; even sorrow had been profitable, and errors had turned out beneficially. "That I well know," said the King; "but I do not see how my just and natural desire that the Queen should have lived to see this day, affects the question." Witzleben replied, that his very grief for the Queen's loss, had produced proofs of devotion to his person, which might not have been offered had the Queen lived; for his affliction had been felt by the nation at large as a call on them for that sympathy and support which she was supposed to have afforded him by her counsels. "That may be," said the King; "but it is quite certain that the Queen never interposed in any matter connected with politics. She never quitted

her own sphere of feminine usefulness; she never sought to interfere with my peculiar province; she never wished to rule, or even to participate in the affairs of Government. The most she ever did was to obtain the mitigation of punishment, or solicit assistance for the unhappy. This was the extent of her interference with my Government; and therefore I hope God will pardon my natural wish that she had lived to see this day."

The King was anxious to possess every species of resemblance of the Queen. Busts, engravings, sketches, and profiles. He possessed many portraits of her, but with none was he perfectly satisfied; for he attached recollections to each period of her life, which no painter could be expected to represent.

He therefore requested the great artist, Ternite, who was afterwards inspector of the Royal Galleries at Berlin, to make a new portrait of the Queen. He had, by desire of the Duke of Mecklenburg, made a drawing of her after death, and a mask had also been taken of her when dead. The King asked him how he would like to represent the Queen. Ternite replied, that as the Queen had never hitherto been painted as a Sovereign, he should like to represent her in that character. "Well," said the King, "we must try to make it as much like her as possible; and she must be painted in the dress she last wore."

"I had scarcely," said Ternite, "collected my materials, portraits, busts, and engravings to assist me in this arduous task, than I received an order

to fit up an atelier in the palace, near the King's dining-room. He thought that only by painting, under his eye, and according to his recollections of her expression, could a striking likeness be obtained, and he used to come daily to superintend my work, frequently accompanied by his guests. By his desire the attendant of the late Queen, Fraulein von Reinbrecht arranged her hair in the same manner she used to dress the Queen's, and sat to me for that part of the portrait.

"Up to this time the King had never seen the picture taken after the Queen's death. The Oberhofmeisterin von Vosz had declared to me that if I ever shewed it to him, she or I must leave the palace. But at length the King said to me, 'I can imagine why you do not shew me the picture; but I am prepared to look at it now, for I have received the mask to-day from Strelitz.' I obeyed, and scarcely had the King looked at the picture than he burst into tears; hitherto he had never been seen to shed tears: at the period of the Queen's death the heart had undoubtedly wept, but these were tears of blood. 'Fearfully true!' cried the King, 'ah! never, never to behold her again!' and with these words he hurried from the room."

At last Professor Rauch was commanded to commence his celebrated statue of the Queen, which is now in the mausoleum at Charlottenburg. Rauch, as a boy, had been distinguished by his disposition for art. The Queen, who soon discovered his

genius for embodying the ideal, encouraged him from the very commencement of his career. She did more, for she removed the obstacles to the development of his talents, and enabled the young artist to prosecute his studies with effect. To execute this statue was to Rauch a labour of love, for this was now the only way of shewing his gratitude to the Queen. He seemed to call in the aid of his most sacred inspirations, and from this source a work has been produced which will be the admiration of the world, so long as excellence is understood and art appreciated.

The model was submitted to the King, who would scarcely permit the royal diadem to adorn the brow of the reposing figure, so eager was he that it should have the appearance of deep slumber, not death. Rauch equally participated in this feeling.

The monument was commenced in 1811; and the account of its progress is very interesting. It was at first determined that it should be worked in Berlin, but the march of the French troops to Russia rendering everything insecure, it was resolved that Rauch should proceed to Carrara to choose the marble, and work the monument in Rome. This was done; and directly peace was concluded, the statue was expedited from Italy. It was put on board an Austrian vessel, called the Alexander, which set sail under English colours in the autumn of 1814. At this time a war had broken out between England and

America. The Alexander having the precious monument on board was captured by an American ship, but an English privateer sailing faster than the American, chased her and her prize to the Spanish coast, and at last took both safely into Jersey. Rauch in the meantime was on his journey home, and read at Munich the account of the capture. He was on the point of returning to Italy to recommence his work, when he was delighted to find that the English Government had sent a vessel (the Spy), laden with the monument to Hamburgh, where it had arrived safely. On the 10th of May, 1815, it reached Charlottenburg, and on the 19th of July the anniversary of the Queen's death, the mausoleum was opened to receive this exquisite work of art.

Rauch has succeeded most happily in this lovely statue. It is not only by the perfection of form, the exquisite finish of the details, the harmony of the ideal with the real, that this chef-d'œuvre of modern art arrests the attention; but it is an elevated thought embodied in execution. In this statue, the expression seems to presage immortality; the repose without the terror of death. Death was a sombre and terrible idea to the ancients, even when they believed in an immortal existence. Christianity, by representing it as the precursor of an eternal life, a resurrection to immortality, has rendered the position of a statue, with the hands uplifted as in the act of prayer, an appropriate attitude for the dead. Rauch has represented the Queen in the attitude of calm

repose, and has given to each feature that touching serenity which only a beatified spirit can feel, whilst enjoying that tranquil sleep which precedes the awakening to an eternity of happiness.

This statue is so exquisite that it would be difficult to say it is surpassed by a repetition of the subject which Rauch meant to keep for himself, but which, at the urgent request of the King, was ceded to him to be placed in the antique temple in the groves of Sans Souci. This recumbent figure also represents the beautiful Queen slumbering as in life, without any of the painful ideas which death inspires. The great artist Bottiger, who came from Dresden to see these two specimens of the excellence of modern art, stood before the statue at Sans Souci with his head uncovered, in profound admiration and astonishment. After gazing on it in a species of rapture he exclaimed, "Oh, my God how beautiful! Art forgets all criticism here; nature predominates in all its simplicity, power, and truth. I know not which statue is the most perfect, but I feel that I dare not speak, for fear of awaking this blessed spirit to a world of care; I fear that the eyes might open, and I do not wish to disturb the heavenly repose which I see expressed in every lovely feature. This statue has produced an impression which will never be effaced for the rest of my life."

The King was so greatly pleased with both these statues, that he often spent whole hours in gazing on them, reflecting on past happiness. Yet in these

moments he was not weakly yielding to the indulgence of sorrow; he sought to attach permanent and benevolent objects with the expression of his feelings of veneration for her memory. The order of the Iron Cross, so greatly esteemed throughout the whole nation, which was founded to commemorate the struggles, the oppression, and at length the triumph of Prussia, the motto of which was, "With God for King and country," was instituted on the 10th of March, the natal day of the Queen, a day which the King declared had produced the noblest and purest being that was ever permitted to hallow this earth by its sacred influence. The Iron Cross expresses every christian feeling, if taken in its true signification. "In hoc signo vinces." This was an iron age, and the material was therefore appropriate.

There are three oak leaves in the middle of the Cross, to shew the necessary union of the different classes, who must be united to form strength. The defensive, the productive, and the instructive portion of the nation are intended to be typified in these leaves of oak. The cross which every Christian must bear, without distinction of birth, fortune, or position, is a suitable emblem of an order that embraces every class of the community. Its obligations are mutual, and its end and aim worthy of the religion which professes self-denial and universal love. "For greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for his brother."

After an interval of six years, the King said "It is now six years since I lost the loveliest, the best, the most cherished object on earth, and so many great events have occurred since that period to occupy my thoughts, that it might be expected they would have been diverted from dwelling incessantly on her memory, but, on the contrary, my every thought reverts to her; she retains the first place in my mind, and every duty, every occupation, seems as if consecrated to her. I live in spiritual communion with the departed, who directs all my actions; but this sensation does not enervate me;—on the contrary, it inspires me with courage to fulfil my duties. I am also instigated to fresh efforts, by the tender recollection of her who was my solace and support in hours of intense affliction. It is she who is my guardian angel now, and this idea gives me the greatest consolation I experience."

This idea of the King was afterwards carried out in an altar-piece; which was placed in the church attached to one of the Queen's favourite residences. Bishop Eylert says, "On her last visit to Paretz, she greeted with affectionate recollections, this tranquil spot of her early matrimonial happiness, and lingered until evening, under the shade of its well-remembered trees. In the cool grotto, which overlooked the Havel stream, the Queen had often reposed, and read many of her favourite authors, and here also she had enjoyed the playful sports of her children. This time she did not wish to quit Paretz, till the very

latest moment possible, and she requested the King to order the carriage round to another entrance, that she might walk to it through a long avenue of trees; the King acceded, and arm in arm, they walked for a long time in the calm moonlight. The King, after her death, caused the way she took for the last time, to be bordered with flowers, and turfed; the gate by which she went out was never after opened; an inscription, with the date (the 20th of May, 1810) with the letter "L." was placed over it, and in the grotto, on the iron table, was inscribed these words, in gold letters, "Remember the absent." This was done to remind his children of their mother. To perpetuate his own affectionate recollections of this, their last visit to Paretz, he gave a new marble altar-piece to the church, executed in bas-relief, by the celebrated statuary Schadow, which represented the beatification of the late Queen; a wreath of immortals, composing the characters of her name, hangs over it. It was by these sacred and solemn associations that his love and veneration for her were exhibited so steadily to the very close of his own life.

The King's desire to associate the Queen's memory with permanent institutions, suggested the mode by which he manifested his estimation of the virtue of patriotism in the female bosom. During the period of Prussia's struggles for freedom, the gentler sex had not shewn less devotion than those patriots who had voluntarily taken up arms to avenge

the insulted honour of their country. Young maidens and noble matrons alike forgot the natural timidity of their sex, and gave proofs of courage and fortitude that could not have been anticipated from "the tender and the delicate amongst women;" those who formerly would have swooned at the sight of blood, now came forward to assist in the hospitals, and were present at amputations, and other painful operations, in the hope of affording some mitigation of these heart-rending sufferings.

These painful scenes might be endured by mothers, sisters, or wives, but here it was pure philanthropy. In every town, the wounded were received with compassionate sympathy. When the hospitals provided for the purpose of receiving the sufferers were not sufficiently large, they were lodged in private houses, whose owners voluntarily offered their services, in tending these heroic defenders of their fatherland.

But not only to their countrymen did this pure philanthropy extend: the words of the Holy Scripture, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself;" and "Thou shalt do unto all men as thou wouldst they should do unto thee;" were carried out in the spirit as well as in the letter, for no distinction was made between the disabled enemy and the wounded friend. An association of ladies bound themselves to aid in tending the sick, and in performing all the duties of hired nurses. A certain number, in their turn, were on duty each day; and nothing was allowed to interfere with these sacred, but self-imposed obligations. The

effects of this association, in improving the ordinary system pursued in hospitals was apparent, for in this occupation, a spirit of love is the most important of all requisites. None seemed to consider as a sacrifice what was thus prompted by a feeling of duty; and every class of the community, from the noble dame to the wife of the honest artisan, was associated in this holy vocation. One feeling animated all hearts. These, and many other services rendered to the State by the gentler sex, were deeply impressed on the mind of the King, (who imagined what would have been the Queen's feelings at this display of the highest virtues which adorn her sex), and he resolved to perpetuate the remembrance of these noble actions, by founding an order for ladies, to be called the "Louisen Orden;" thus gratifying his own feelings of veneration for the memory of his Queen, by associating her name with so honourable an institution.

On founding the order, the King said: "Our brave warriors fought and bled for their country; and the enthusiasm of our women inspired them with courage; they yielded their husbands and sons cheerfully, for the defence of their fatherland; faith and hope prompted this devotion to a just cause, and their abnegation of self was further shown by their devotion to the wounded and disabled. By their soothing care, the pangs of the sufferers were alleviated, and their sympathy afforded them consolation and support. It is impossible to reward each

individual whose merit entitles her to such distinction, but we are determined to do honour to the female sex, and to prove our high estimation of these noble actions, by the creation of an order to be worn by ladies."

This order was intended to correspond with that of the Iron Cross, and was founded on the 3rd of August, 1814, the King's birthday—the order of the Iron Cross having been instituted on that of the deceased Queen.

The insignia of the order is a golden cross, with the letter "L" in black enamel on a ground of azure; the letter encircled by stars. On the back of the cross is engraved the years 1813 and 1814. It is worn with a white ribbon, like the insignia of the Iron Cross, and the ribbon is fastened in a bow on the left breast. Maidens and matrons are alike eligible for this decoration; but they must be Prussian subjects by birth or marriage, and the number is limited to one hundred. The Princess William was named President of the Order, and was associated with the Countess of Arnem, the wife of General Bogaslawsky, the wife of the merchant Welper, and the widow of the statuary Eben; for as individuals of every class had shown the same devoted patriotism, the King desired to reward them equally, and the middle and humble classes were decorated in the same manner as the noblest in the land.

As every thing relating to the widowed King and to those beloved children of the late Queen, on

whom she had lavished so much affectionate devotion, must be interesting to the reader, a few anecdotes are inserted, which prove the deep feeling with which the King continued to cherish her memory, and the sentiments of attachment which ever pervaded the members of this royal and amiable family.

The King would revert with mournful pleasure to the sensations of admiration with which the first interview with his lost Queen had inspired him. It had produced so powerful an impression, that it ever remained palpably distinct in his memory. He said, "The first moment of acquaintance was the moment of reciprocal inclination, and an inward voice whispered, It is she or none other in this world. I once," continued the King, "read something of Schiller's which expressed exquisitely and truly that feeling of secret sympathy, which, in kindred hearts, is excited by the first glance, as was the case with me and my sainted Louisa, when we beheld each other for the first time in Frankfort, as we both afterwards acknowledged. It was no sickly sentiment, but a distinct consciousness of that sensation, which at the same moment caused a thrill of delight in our hearts. My God! how much has happened since the first tear of joy, that glistened in our eyes at our first meeting, and these mournful tears with which I now bewail her loss. I know well that these sympathetic feelings are the sweet blossoms of a youthful love which are only felt once, and never again return. I willingly fall back on these recol-

lections, and should have liked to read that passage of Schiller's again, but I have never been able to find it."

Some days after this conversation, I laid the play of "Die Braut von Messina" before him, and read aloud the speech in which Don Cæsar expresses the impression Beatrice made on him at beholding her for the first time.

It is thus translated,—

DON CÆSAR.

From her presence quick
Some secret, all-pervading inward charm
Was felt; 'twas not the magic of a smile,
Nor the soft blush that mounted o'er her cheek, nor yet
The form of peerless grace:—'twas Beauty's soul,
Revealing virtue, modestly innate,
That as with magic spells, impalpable
To mortal sense, my being thralled. We breathed together
The air of Heaven.—It was enough,
No words our spiritual converse asked, and in my heart,
Though strange, yet with familiar ties she seemed
Entwined; and instant spake the thought—'Tis she!
Or none that lives!

DON MANUEL.

That is the sacred fire
From Heaven—the spark of love, that on the soul
Bursts like the lightning's flash, and mounts in flame;
When kindred bosoms meet! no choice remains.
Who shall resist? what mortal break the band,
That Heaven has knit?

"Yes, yes," said the King, as I read it aloud,

"that is the passage I meant;—very beautiful! but it makes a different impression now. The roses are faded, the thorns remain.—But I may now no longer yield to those feelings; they enervate the mind, and are not suitable to the weighty matters which press so heavily on me in these gloomy times."

The domain of Charlottenburg, after the demise of the Queen, became more dear to the King. An atmosphere of genuine sorrow, nourished by the vicinity of her precious remains, seemed to surround him. He used to stroll along the dark avenue of pine trees which led to her mausoleum, and he only had a key to the lower vault. A holy stillness pervaded the spot where the good and beautiful Queen had found an early grave.

After the death of the Queen the apartments of the palace seemed too large and lonely for the King, especially after the marriage of his daughters; and therefore he had a small house built near the palace for his own occupation, containing few apartments, but very compact and comfortable. An air of tranquillity pervaded them, and the objects and ornaments around nourished affectionate feelings. The King resided there as a private gentleman, and was unapproachable save by his confidential servants. On the table of his sitting-room lay letters from his children, principally his absent daughters, with beautiful samples of their work in knitting and embroidery,—presents they had offered to their august father on his birthdays. The adjoining small room served

for his bed-chamber; and the outer coverlid of his bed was a large and favourite shawl which the deceased Queen had frequently worn. The servant was enjoined to fold up this precious relic carefully every morning, and place it on a particular chair; and the King, with his own hands, unfolded it and spread it on his bed every night before retiring to rest.

Amongst the many pleasing methods of exhibiting his affectionate feelings towards his children when very young, a daily custom may be cited which shows the King in the light of a tender parent, capable of understanding and entering into the infantine pleasures of his motherless children.

Every morning throughout the whole year, a certain quantity of fruit, according to the season, was placed in the favourite sitting-room of his Majesty. On the same table several baskets were placed, and beside them, labels with the names of each of the royal children. The King used to select a certain portion of fruit, and place it himself in these baskets, ornamenting them with flowers; and then attaching the labels to each basket, he gave them to the attendants in waiting, who carried them immediately to the royal children, with their father's affectionate morning salutations. This was his usual method of commencing the day, and the King seldom varied in his ordinary habits.

The King was anxious to obtain the confidence

of his children, and to exhibit that affectionate interest in their inclinations and desires which had not been manifested towards him in his early youth. He had been consigned to the care of a severe hypochondriacal man. His accommodation had been so little studied, that his apartment was too small to receive a collection of minerals which he was very eager to possess, and which he was obliged to renounce on that account. He used to say to his children sometimes, "Think how well off you are; such luxuries I never possessed till I was married to your mother. I used to receive a present on my birth-day worth six *dreier*, (six farthings); or, for a treat, my preceptor would let me go into the garden and leave me there; and for a *great* treat, I was allowed two groschen worth of cherries." Frederick the Great had bestowed little notice on the King; but he was determined to associate his son, the Crown Prince, with him in the affairs of State, in order that he might be better able to assure the welfare of his people when he should assume the reins of Government. He used to call him his dear Fritz, and treated him as a friend and companion. The filial affection of the Crown Prince (now reigning King) augmented with each year, and especially after his marriage with the Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria, for the King took every opportunity of proving his regard for his daughter-in-law. It was evident that the interest with which she had inspired him by her beauty, her feminine dignity, her

cultivated mind and eminent virtues, increased as he became better and more intimately acquainted with her. Never was a happier union than that of the Crown Prince and his amiable consort. This cannot be doubted by any who have had the advantage of witnessing the conduct of the royal couple towards each other. Even in public, the delicate health of the Queen permits many little demonstrations of affectionate solicitude on the part of the King, which he never omits.

These tokens of real interest are so easily distinguished from the mere external form of good breeding, that they cannot be mistaken. On one occasion, the Crown Prince and Princess had been invited to dine with the King on the Peacock Island, and, unfortunately, a violent storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by torrents of rain, came on just at the time they should have crossed the stream. The King was in a state of great agitation, exclaiming frequently, "The poor Princess! I hope she is not frightened. I hope she will not suffer!" In fact, he who was always calm when his own personal convenience was concerned, was now so restless, that he could not remain sitting, but walked up and down, exclaiming, "Fatal! fatal! Oh, the poor Princess!" At every instant he asked, "Are they not yet arrived?" Each moment augmented his fears for them. At last they came, but long after the appointed time, and the King, tenderly embracing the Crown Princess, exclaimed, "It is

well that you are here. I have been very anxious about you. I am thankful you are safe;" and nothing could exceed his joy in finding she had not suffered from the effects of the storm.

The King was always pleased with sincere expressions of attachment to the royal family, in whatever terms they were couched. This was proved in the case of a worthy female peasant, named Flotow. On the King's arrival at Potsdam in the spring, she usually came to congratulate him, and on his departure in autumn, to bid him a cordial farewell. If she did not come, he used to send for her, for she was never obtrusive. The Queen, as well as the royal children, in whom Flotow took a very lively interest, often conversed with her. The King once said to her, "The next time I come, I will bring all my children with me, for they are coming to visit me." "That is good news, your Majesty," said she, "that will make you very happy. Do the Russians come also?" Some of the courtiers could not resist laughing at this mode of designating the Empress of Russia and her children. The old peasant was abashed, but the King encouraged her, and said, "Yes, they will be here, and you shall see them when they arrive." Accordingly, the King conducted the Empress and her children to see the good old peasant, who felt less timid with the Empress than with many other ladies, having known her well as a child. The Empress spoke very kindly to her, and assured her that she had always remem-

bered her with interest, and then presented her children to the delighted old woman, who in the excess of her joy wished to kiss the robe of the young Archduchess; but the Empress told her daughter in a foreign language not to permit this, but rather herself to kiss the good old woman; and the young Archduchess most gracefully, after the Russian manner of salutation, kissed the forehead of the old peasant. This was a beautiful instance of consideration for the feelings of a worthy object. It showed the illustrious Empress in the light of an amiable and benevolent woman; it was a trait worthy of a daughter of the late lamented Queen.

The affectionate intercourse of the royal family was kept up in despite of the distance that separated its various members. The King contrived to associate recollections of his children with inanimate objects; for example, he built a new bridge over the Havel, and did not allow it to be opened until the Empress of Russia paid him a visit, in order that she should be the first person who passed over it. He then inserted a plate, with this inscription: "Commenced in 1831; opened by the Empress of Russia, Charlotte, Princess of Prussia, on the 30th of September, 1834." It was a compliment to the Empress, who was much gratified. On this visit a fête, called the Festival of the White Rose, was given in her honour. It was a tournament, after the fashion of the middle ages, in which the Crown Prince, Prince William of Prussia, Prince Alexander

of Solms, and Duke Charles of Mecklenburg distinguished themselves by their dexterity in knightly exercises. The Empress, who wore a white rose in her bosom as a symbol of the fête, presided, and distributed the rewards to the victors with her wonted dignity and grace.

The Empress, on her part, was anxious to manifest when absent, that her thoughts were occupied with recollections of her beloved father, and she frequently proved this by little tokens of affection. On one occasion she sent the King one Asiatic plant, until then unknown in Germany, bearing a beautiful flower. It was placed in the palm-house on the Peacock Island. The King expressed much fondness for this plant on account of its associations, and named it after his beloved daughter, "Charlotte." Whenever he visited the island, his first inquiry of the gardener was—"How thrives my Charlotte?" The public were permitted to visit the Peacock Island two days in every week during the summer months. Who can describe the dismay of the gardener, when he discovered on one occasion that some person had plucked off the flower, held in such extraordinary estimation by the King. Enraged at the loss, the gardener rushed through the crowd in the hope of discovering the lost treasure. After a fruitless search, he placed himself at the landing place by which the visitors must return. He had not waited long when a young and well-dressed man came up with the identical flower displayed in his button-hole. The enraged

gardener dragged the stripling to his own house, in order that in the presence of three witnesses, a *procès verbal* might be drawn up of the affair. His Majesty, ere long, came to the island, and as usual asked, "How thrives my Charlotte?" The gardener, with tears in his eyes, related the particulars. The King merely remarked, "It was unkind to deprive me of that source of pleasure." "There'll be no end to such conduct," said the angry gardener, "if your Majesty does not forbid the public from visiting the island." "How can the public help it?" said the King. "It is not surprising that amongst thousands one man should abuse this privilege. The island was not made for me alone; I can only find time to visit it occasionally. Why should not these beautiful, but quickly fading flowers be enjoyed by my people?" As the gardener was about to mention the culprit's name, the King abruptly stopped him, saying, "No no! I desire not to know his name; I have an unlucky memory: hereafter the man may have occasion to ask some favour, and his name, by causing me to recollect this unpleasant circumstance, may tend to his disadvantage. No, no! forgotten is forgiven!"

After the marriage of his daughters, the King was never so happy as when they came to stay with him, which they frequently did for months. He was a most affectionate father, and entered into their feelings with much delicate consideration. One instance of this may be given, when the Princess Alexandrina was married to the Hereditary Prince of Mecklenburg-

Schwerin, a son of the charming Russian Princess Helena, who had been an intimate friend, and much beloved by the late Queen, the King accompanied his daughter a portion of the way to her new home at Ludwigslust. As the moment of separation arrived, the young Princess became very melancholy; and at parting with her affectionate father, wept bitterly. The King endeavoured to console her with the assurance, that as the distance was not great, they might meet again sooner than she expected. Her astonishment was extreme, and only equalled by her delight, when the first person she beheld on her arrival in the evening at Ludwigslust was her beloved father, who received her with open arms. Tenderly pressing her to his bosom, he reminded her of the last assurance he had made her. The King had pressed forward by a nearer route, in order to have the pleasure of welcoming her on her arrival, and of enjoying her surprize.

The high estimation in which the Princess Alexandrina was held by her husband, may be inferred from an anecdote related by Ancillon*, the clergyman who performed the marriage ceremony; he says:—"When the Prince, soon after the death of his father, revisited Potsdam, I congratulated him on his accession, and wished that happiness might accompany his reign, and that he individually might

* Formerly a celebrated preacher; he afterwards became attached to the Government as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

possess every blessing." He replied, "The best blessing I can possess on earth, is my wife Alexandrina, and you have given her to me; she cannot be better than she is." The same testimony was given by her late father-in-law, the good old eccentric Duke, whose straightforward character was inimical to all compliment. When the same ecclesiastic, some time after the marriage, approached the Duke to thank him for a very valuable diamond ring, which he had sent him, the Duke observed, "I ought rather to thank you. What is a ring? a miserable thing.—You addressed the young couple most properly on their marriage, told them many truths, and gave them very good advice, which if they follow will make them happy; I shall have your discourse printed, and a copy sent to every house in my State; it will do much good. What is a mere diamond ring? For what you gave us, no price would be too much; but the best things cannot be paid for."

On the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Louisa, with her cousin, Prince Frederic of the Netherlands, in May, 1825, the King accompanied the bridal pair to Brandenburg. The Corporation of the good old town made great preparations to receive the royal party. A triumphal arch was erected, and decorated with garlands, and amongst other demonstrations of respect, young maidens, in white garments, strewed flowers; they also presented a poem, which contained many allusions to the late Queen, turning principally on the name Louisa, for

the Princess was named after her mother, and was thought to resemble her greatly. Amongst many congratulations and fervent wishes for the happiness of the young bride, the poem contained these lines:-

"Wie Dich der Mütter theurer Name schmückt
Der früh verklärten Engel reinen Seele.
Die lächelnd jetzt auf Dich hernieder blickt,
O dasz Ihr Friede so Dir nimmer fehle!
Er bleibet Dir! Er ist Dir voll genûg
Der Friede den Sie stets im Herzen trug."

It was feared that these allusions might be displeasing to the King, by awakening mournful recollections, and it had been suggested to the writer, the excellent Oberprediger (head-preacher) Bauer to substitute another poem, but the time was too short. Happily, the King was pleased to signify his approbation of the verses, which he read through very carefully. A gold medal, and six silver ones, struck in commemoration of the marriage, with the profiles of the young couple, were presented to the Corporation, and a letter was sent to thank the author for a poem so especially gratifying to the King, and requesting his acceptance of a gold medal for himself, and two hundred dollars for the purpose of distribution amongst the poor of the town.

The confirmation of the Crown Prince, (now reigning King), took place on the 20th of January, 1813, in the midst of great political excitement.

It will be interesting to the reader to learn the early sentiments of the illustrious godfather of the heir apparent to the British throne on this solemn occasion. The present King of Prussia, Frederic William IV. is not only sponsor for the Prince of Wales, but is also nearly related to him; the lamented Queen Louisa being first cousin to the late Duke of Kent, the father of her present most gracious Majesty. Bishop Eylert describes the event in these terms.

"The King's determination to throw off the French yoke, was not publicly known, although, at that moment it was about to be acted upon, and two days after the confirmation of the Crown Prince, the King, not without great personal danger, surrounded as he was, on every side, by French soldiery, left Potsdam, with all the Princes of his house, for Breslau, in Silesia, which he intended should be the focus for assembling and organizing his army; his guards having orders to follow shortly afterwards.

"Bishop Sack, who performed the ceremony, had baptized, instructed, confirmed, and married, King Frederick William III., baptized all the royal children born in Berlin of his marriage, and the last act of his clerical duties was the confirmation of the Crown Prince, then on the eve of his departure with the troops for Breslau."

The Prince stood beside Bishop Sack at the altar, the whole royal family forming a semicircle, in the centre of which stood his august father. The Prince answered the questions put to him distinctly, and

his replies were evidently the utterance of his own opinions, not merely what he had been taught. Sack proceeded systematically with the Prince's examination on the fundamental truths of Christianity, advanced to the practical proofs of faith in divine Providence, and then put this question to the Crown Prince, "How should this faith in God's all-wise, all-compassing, and benevolent government of the world operate on you now, in this present dark and mysterious epoch?" The Prince, feeling the immense importance of the question, and how much depended on his answer, heroically replied, "This faith should, and will elevate me, strengthen me, and give me confidence. In firm belief I calmly rely on Him who said, 'Hereunto, and no farther! here shall thy proud waves be stayed.' I believe in the All-righteous who permits a sacred ray of light to break joyfully on the upright. The aurora of a happier day appears: I hope with a cheering confidence, and trust that the Almighty and gracious God will be with my royal father and with his loyal people. Amen." All present were electrified, and deep emotion was relieved by tears. Sack, with his usual correct judgment, perceiving that any further examination would be ill-timed, merely added to the Prince's "Amen," a pathetic prayer, and gave him the benediction; after which the heir-apparent fell with filial piety on the breast of his agitated father.

The following day the Crown Prince received the sacrament, and the day after departed for Breslau

with the King, who was resolved to struggle to the last with the powerful oppressor of his country. The confirmation therefore took place at a time when it was about to be decided whether the throne of Prussia should be annihilated or restored to its former power and independence.

The King took great interest in the welfare of the collateral branches of his family, as well as in those of his late Queen, and this was felt and appreciated by them. The Princess Helena of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, whose brilliant destiny excited much attention at that time, knew that she should confer great pleasure on the King, whom she loved and respected as he deserved, by paying him a visit, in her way from Schwerin to Paris. The Duke of Orleans had seen this Princess at Marienbad; a mutual good feeling was the result, and the alliance was soon after determined upon. It was, therefore, when on her journey to France, as the future Queen of the French, that she was received by the King and royal family at Potsdam.

The gentleness and modest dignity of the affianced bride produced a very favourable impression on the King, who with all his children in Potsdam, received her as she alighted from the carriage. He led her through the apartments filled with courtiers anxious to gaze on the illustrious bride of one of the most fascinating princes in Europe, celebrated alike for his remarkably handsome person as for his intellectual ability. At that time she might well appear an

object of envy. Firmness of character, accompanied by great simplicity of manner, which the consciousness of intellectual power often produces, was apparent in every gesture of this admirable Princess.

She addressed some pleasing remarks to those who were especially presented to her, and many of them were happily-turned compliments. To the physician of the King, Dr. von Wiebel, she said, "The excellent health of his Majesty is the very best eulogium on your skill; and from my heart I hope the same proof of it will continue to be exhibited for many years." She then turned to Bishop Eylert, who, disliking all merely ceremonious expressions, addressed her in language more suited to his holy calling than that of etiquette. After assuring her of his interest in her brilliant destiny, he added, "But the future is enveloped in a dark veil, impenetrable to mortal eye. The voice of God, however, is heard continually, and under all circumstances, in the pure heart. May He direct and guide you in your path through life; and be sure our warmest sympathy and interest accompany you in your journey."

The Princess was surprised and manifested her emotion. She replied that she should not forget these well-meant expressions; and with tears in her eyes she added—it would seem with foreboding melancholy—"Pray for me when I am far away;" and at the same time she extended her hand to him in token of the friendly feeling this address had called forth. She quitted Potsdam with the esteem and

regard of all those who had been so fortunate as to have witnessed her amiable behaviour.

The bed-room of the late Queen, in the palace of Charlottenburg is exactly in the same state in which she occupied it. The walls are hung with fluted white muslin. The *plafond* is painted by Harver, and represents the mythological subject of Diana and Endymion. On a small table near the bed is shewn a collection of Psalms and Hymns, by Schefer, which the Queen daily used. It is stated that the book actually used by the Queen is carefully treasured up, but that the one shewn is an exact copy, and placed in the same spot where the other used to lie.

The King continued to manifest his veneration for the memory of his lost Queen to the close of his life; and perhaps no stronger proof can be cited of that tender recollection which he nourished, and which every female heart would desire should be cherished of her after death, than the fact that the King wore to the last moment of his existence a portrait of his Queen concealed in the decoration of the black eagle, which he never laid aside.

Frederick William III died on the 7th of June, 1840, and was buried in the same vault which contained the earthly remains of his beloved consort.

The royal mausoleum which now forms the most beautiful as well as most interesting object in the vicinity of the capital, is situated in the gardens of the palace of Charlottenburg, and has been

materially altered and embellished by the present King Frederick William IV., whose filial piety prompted him to render it a befitting structure for the reception of the mortal remains of both his honoured parents.

The original temple which contained the statue of the lamented Queen was much smaller than the present mausoleum, and was far less elaborate in its details.

Since the re-union of the royal pair in their last earthly resting place, the mausoleum has been enlarged, and is so beautiful, so simple, and at the same time so suitable to inspire those feelings of devotion and calm veneration which the near vicinity of the dead should always produce, that a minute description of it cannot be misplaced here, particularly as it is considered a masterpiece of Prussian art, both as to exterior and interior, and is looked upon as a holy sanctuary by every Prussian.

The mausoleum is approached by a long avenue of pine-trees leading to a grove of black firs, cypress and Babylonian willows, bordered with white roses, lilies, and Hortensias, the favourite flowers of the beloved Queen.

This hallowed temple was erected from a design of Schinkel, and is in the form of a parallelogram. The portico is composed of four Doric columns of Brandenburg granite, each of one single block. The Alpha and Omega (ΑΩ) on the façade of the triangular pediment declares the end and aim of all

mortal aspirations, and reminds us that what was created out of dust, must unto dust return. The interior of the temple (the walls of which are decorated with scagliola), is divided into two compartments of unequal sizes. Two flights of steps of Kaufinger marble, each composed of eight stairs, conduct from the lower to the upper compartment. Between these two flights is the door leading to the entrance of the vault beneath, containing the remains of the royal pair, which is never opened. The Queen reposes in a coffin or sarcophagus of lead, weighing eighteen hundred weight, supported by eight lion's feet, with this simple inscription graven on it: "Louisa Augusta Wilhelmina Amalia, Queen of Prussia, Princess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, born 10th of March, 1776, Died at Hohenzieritz, 19th July, 1810."*

In the upper compartment of the mausoleum, which is over the vault, are four pillars of green marble, and two pilasters of Sicilian jasper, supporting the roof, which is lighted from above.

The four pillars of porphyry were brought from the palace of Oranienburg, and are of great antiquity. They were originally brought from the East to Rome, thence to Poland, and at last came into the possession of King Frederick William I.

* I have never seen the sarcophagus, but the Berlin Guide (1827), from which this inscription is taken, declares the date to be 1774; if so it is incorrect.

In the upper compartment, that masterpiece of modern times, Rauch's surpassingly beautiful statue of the Queen, reclines on a sarcophagus resembling a couch. Mind is visible on the brow; heart in the affectionate smile hovering around the lips; and soul in the expression of every feature; the peace of God seems to extend over the whole of the slumbering figure. On one side of the sarcophagus is sculptured in bas-relief the royal arms of Prussia; on the other, the Ducal arms of Mecklenburg, and at the head and foot the Prussian eagle. On either side the monument are placed magnificent candelabras, sculptured in Carrara marble, the one on the right hand by Rauch, represents the fatal sister with the instruments for severing the thread of human life: the one on the left, by Tieck, represents the Hours. There are appropriate texts of Scripture on the ornaments which adorn the interior, and the roof is azure, interspersed with gold stars, to imitate the firmament.

In the year 1840, a statue of the King was placed on a sarcophagus opposite the exquisite monument of his lamented consort.

The interest with which every thing is received in Germany, relating to the excellent Queen Louisa, has not been diminished by the lapse of years; nor can the vivid recollections of the beloved Sovereign ever fade in the memory of that nation whose regeneration and independence she so ardently desired. An existence consecrated to the welfare of those around her, and which in the sweetest and nearest relations of

domestic life was an example to every private family, cannot fail to excite the warmest interest in this country where domestic happiness is so dearly prized.

Her life presents varied materials for reflection, involving the important subjects of faith, founded on a firm reliance in the wisdom of Providence, resignation to its inscrutable decrees, and courage based on the true principles of religion, and furnishes a subject of meditation worthy of the best and most reflecting portion of mankind.

THE END.

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